Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

'Dissidents' Hold Reconciliation Talks With 'Arafat

NC0808121495 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nabulus, West Bank, Aug 8 (AFP) — Five dissidents from a Palestinian radical group opposed to autonomy have held reconciliation talks with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, one of the men said Tuesday [8 August].

The five are from Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian [PFLP]-General Command which is fighting on against Israeli occupation and the self-rule deal.

The dissidents said they asked 'Arafat to allow 100 PFLP people to return to the Gaza Strip and hold an annual convention to oust Jibril as leader.

"We told Mr. 'Arafat that we want to join the Palestinian Authority and take part in the re-construction of our homeland," Salim Abu-al-Sa'ud told AFP.

"The president of the Palestinian Authority promised to examine our request," said Abu-al-Sa'ud, from the occupied West Bank town of Nabulus.

Jibril, who called for 'Arafat to be killed after the signing of the Declaration of Principles for autonomy with Israel in 1993, has his headquarters in Damascus along with nine other Palestinian opposition groups.

Hamas Official: 'Dictatorship' Under PA Rule

NC0808191695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Hamas representative Muhammad Nazzal, in Jordan, by unidentified correspondent; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] How true are the reports that 'Arafat's Authority is negotiating with Muhammad Nassar, a dissident from your Hamas [Islamic Resistance] movement, to hand over the body of a Zionist soldier kidnapped in Gaza in 1989?

[Nazzal] I have no information about this matter. We heard from the media that there are negotiations between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the person you named, but we do not know whether this report is true. In any case, the PA's attempts to serve Israel's security began when the PA entered the Gaza Strip. They have been trying to get the body of Israeli soldier (Ilan Sa'du) for some time.

[Correspondent] What does the recent agreement between 'Arafat's Authority and the Zionist entity on handing over Islamist suspects to the Zionist entity mean and what do you have to say about it?

[Nazzal] This confirms what we have been repeatedly saying, namely that the PA's role is suspicious one, for its security forces give protection to Israel. Thus, the Israelis' dream has come true. Instead of themselves protecting the entity they have established on our land, they have found people from among our own kinsmen and people to do this job for them.

[Correspondent] Does the closure of some newspapers in the PA's areas on flimsy grounds mean that a dictatorship had started to be imposed?

[Nazzal] I believe that dictatorship began the moment the PA came to the Gaza Strip. Dictatorship has thrived since then and I believe that we will soon see more despotism and dictatorship. This contradicts the slogans about democracy and the talk about human rights and freedoms. The closure of the newspapers AL-WATAN and AL-ISTIQLAL — and this is not the first closure, by the way — clearly proves what we are saying.

[Correspondent] Is the [words indistinct] by settlers the work of a specific organization or a scheme by all the Zionists?

[Nazzal] It might or might not be a scheme by all the Zionists. That is not the important thing. What is important is that at a time when there is talk about peace and when these slogans are being bandied about, we find that the al-Aqsa Mosque is now being threatened by a large number of Israelis. The Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims all over the world must be aware of this big plot against the al-Aqsa Mosque, which is quite clear to us.

[Correspondent] What has happened with the case of Dr. Abu- Marzuq?

[Nazzal] A second court session is supposed to be held this morning, New York time. We hope that Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq will be released, though the things we have heard regrettably point the other way.

Hamas Calls For Strike, Repeats Ramat Gan Claim

MM0908135795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Aug 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Repeats Its Claim of Responsibility for Ramat Gan Operation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) yesterday repeated its claim of responsibility for the suicide operation in Ramat Gan and reaffirmed "our people's determination to resist the occupation and hit its targets." It

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called for a demonstration on 11 August to condemn the detention of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, chairman of its Political Bureau, in the United States, and to call for his release.

A statement issued by Hamas "on the occasion of the 93d month of the intifadah," a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, strongly attacked the Palestinian Authority [PA], accusing it of "choosing to stand in defense of the Zionist enemy." The statement, which called for a general strike today, said that the autonomy Authority "only saw the heroic operations as something to be condemned and to be blamed for its own incompetence and failure to expand the feeble autonomy. Having announced that their [PA officials'] negotiations with the Zionists could go on for months, they went to the point of insulting people's intelligence by claiming that the Ramat Gan martyrdom operation was carried out by Zionist extremists." The statement said: "Hamas announces the death of the heroic martyr who carried out the Ramat Gan operation, and urges the mujahidin forces to direct their painful blows at the occupation."

Al-Tayyib Warns Israel Not To 'Appease' Settlers

JN0808143195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Yasir 'Arafat, a grand festival was held in Tulkarm last night to honor the distinguished students in the district. Colleague Mu'in Shadid has more details:

[Begin Shadid recording] A grand festival organized by the Charitable Student Society in Tulkarm to honor the distinguished students in the district was concluded late last night. It was held under the patronage of President Yasir 'Arafat, who delegated al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Authority [PA], to represent him in this ceremony.

In a speech, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim conveyed President Yasir 'Arafat's greetings and greeted the distinguished students. He said that the PA Council of Ministers has decided to grant them scholarships to universities in the homeland and abroad. He then congratulated their families.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said the Palestinian people are known to be cultured and educated. He added: Today, we are facing a great challenge, and are required to prove our competence in building our state on our Palestinian land under the national Palestinian leadership. The Palestinian people, he said, are capable of building a model state in the Middle East.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim briefed the audience on the political developments in the region, reviewing the objectives of the National Authority, most prominent among which is liberating the rest of the homeland. He denounced the settlers' actions and called on the Israeli Government to put an end to them. He also stressed the importance of national unity, and warned the Israeli Government against trying to appease the settlers. He said such unacceptable methods can explode the situation once again and return matters to square one. He called for greater attention to land and for forming committees to defend land in all Palestinian areas. He stressed that law is above all and said: We believe in political pluralism, but reject multiple authorities. There is no authority other than the National Palestinian Authority. He called on the Israeli Government to release all prisoners. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Husayni Interviewed on Talks With Israel

NC0908071695 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 9 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem affairs in the Palestinian Authority, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Jundi] Observers of Palestinian and Israeli affairs notice that Israel speaks about security, water, and the redeployment of its forces in the West Bank in a language insinuating that it wants to keep the Israeli settlements. The Oslo accord defers discussion of these settlements to the final phase. Do you believe this is the only difficult obstacle to the peace process right now?

[Al-Husayni] The settlements are one of the major obstacles. But Jerusalem is also very important. The Israeli policy on Jerusalem is very grave and must stop. We have waged several battles, including the seizure of land, and now we have the new battle over prayer in al-Aqsa Mosque. We have before us long battles regarding Jerusalem. Right now the most important thing is that Israel should start taking new steps to change the fait accompli in Jerusalem. Regarding the settlements, yes, they are a very difficult issue, and if they are not treated in a sound way, there will be no redeployment of forces, no elections, and no peace process. As for the water issue, it is a scandal that Israel is seizing our water—82.5 percent of our water. It then tells us to find other sources of water, such as seawater desalination or rainwater. If we say that water is scarce and they will face shortages as well as us, each party must have its rights to what water there is. Then we can search

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together for other sources of water. But for us to be saddled with the burden of finding new water sources so that Israel can enjoy our water, this is unacceptable.

[Al-Jundi] There is clear procrastination by Israel regarding an agreement with the Palestinian side on the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. With 1 and 25 July now past, it is apparent that Israeli dates are not sacred, as Yitzhaq Rabin has often said. Does this mean the Israeli procrastination will continue forever or that the Palestinians will insist on a fixed date for reaching a final agreement with the Israeli side?

[Al-Husayni] There is a firm Palestinian stance. Israel knows the international circumstances will compel it to let the negotiations take their course in a normal way.

Hamas Appeals to Moroccan King on Abu-Marzuq

TA0808151895 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Aug 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, QUDS PRESS — Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has called on Morocco's King Hassan II to intercede with the U.S. Administration to secure the release of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of its political bureau, who has been kept in custody in the United States since 25 July on charges of violating U.S. immigration laws.

A message sent to the king of Morocco says: We hope that you will use your good offices with the U.S. Administration to secure the release of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq and prevent the issue of his detention from being exploited by certain parties to foster tension in the Arab region.

The message, the text of which was published yesterday, adds: The evidence at hand indicates that the detention was carried out for political reasons related to Dr. Abu-Marzuq's conduct and beliefs, especially in view of the fact that the U.S. Government has not only allowed the Israelis to interfere in the issue from the outset but has also given them more time to present their extradition request.

Hamas expressed its hope that the king will respond to this appeal to end the crisis and permit Dr. Abu-Marzuq to leave the United States for the destination of his choice.

A U.S. court is expected to look into the case of the Palestinian official tomorrow following a one-week postponement.

Groups Urge U.S. To Release Abu-Marzuq

TA0908134695 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Aug 95 p 10

[Report by 'Ala' al-Mashahrawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — A Palestinian society active in monitoring Palestinian human rights has called on U.S. authorities to release Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq immediately and unconditionally and to allow him to exercise his freedom and right either to remain in the United States or to leave freely and safely.

The Palestinian Human Rights Society condemned the U.S. measures and noted the need to protect Palestinian human rights involving kidnapping, detention, and assassination, which have afflicted many Palestinians in the United States.

In a press release distributed yesterday, the society said: We follow with great concern the tense reports related to the arrest of Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Political Bureau, and the fact that he has been held hostage to internal considerations.

The society called on labor associations and organizations concerned with the defense of human rights inside and outside the United States to exert pressure on the relevant U.S. quarters and to fulfill their role in safeguarding Abu-Marzuq's life and ensuring that he and his family are treated in a proper and humane manner.

Moreover, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF], led by Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid, condemned Dr. Abu-Marzuq's detention, noting that this act violates international laws and human rights. The PPSF stated that this incident does not serve the peace process and will increase tension and mistrust and trigger feelings of anger by Arabs and Muslims against the United States, especially since Dr. Abu-Marzuq did not break U.S. laws and entered the United States legally.

The PPSF added that since Abu-Marzuq is a Palestinian citizen, handing him over to Israel will underscore the hostile U.S. policy toward the Palestinian people and its pro-Israel bias. The PPSF demanded Abu-Marzuq's immediate and unconditional release.

The PPSF called on the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the PLO, which are responsible for the Palestinians, to act quickly and seriously and demand that the United States release Dr. Abu-Marzuq immediately and refrain from handing him over to Israel. This is within the framework of the PA's powers and its right to defend every Palestinian.

The PPSF called on Islamic and Arab states, international organizations, and human rights institutions to

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pressure the United States for the immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Abu- Marzuq.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Discuss IDF Redeployment, Elections

'Arafat Arrives in Taba

NC0808144895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 8 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Taba from Alexandria this afternoon. 'Arafat will later hold talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

It should be recalled that 'Arafat met with President Husni Mubarak in Alexandria today. 'Arafat briefed President Mubarak on his talks with Peres yesterday and the ideas presented by the Israeli foreign minister concerning ways to speed up the achievement of an agreement on implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles. This phase includes the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank and the holding of the Palestinian elections.

Accord Said Reached on IDF Redeployment

TA0808143795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat in Taba has not started yet. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz says that the meeting will apparently start in 30 minutes.

Following his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, 'Arafat said a new date for the signing of the agreement would be set in the meeting with Peres. He noted that difficulties remain but hoped that they will be overcome and that progress will be made.

Chief Palestinian delegate Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] said that both Israel and the Palestinians have made concessions concerning the date for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment. According to him, Peres and 'Arafat decided in their meeting yesterday that the second stage of the redeployment will start six months after the elections in the territories and will go on for one and a half years, with each segment of this stage lasting six months.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes reports that Abu-'Ala's remarks indicate that Israel has abandoned its previous position whereby the second stage of the redeployment will start in approximately two years. For their part, the Palestinians abandoned a previous understanding whereby three months would elapse between each segment of the second stage.

Peres Confirms Accord on IDF Redeployment

TA0808170495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat have begun their meeting in Taba. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Peres confirmed that in his meeting with 'Arafat yesterday, it was decided that the second stage of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment will start six months after the elections in the territories and last one and a half years.

Quray' Views Progress of Talks

NC0808174895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 8 Aug (MENA)—Another round of talks began in Taba this evening between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres; they are continuing the talks they began yesterday on the possibility of reaching an agreement on implementing the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', the minister of economy and trade in the Palestinian National Authority and head of the Palestinian negotiating team, stated that during yesterday's meeting agreement was reached between President 'Arafat and Peres on drawing up a timetable for the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank and handing over Palestinian areas in three stages over six months. Quray' expressed his hope that 'Arafat and Peres will reach agreement during their meeting this evening on the issues hindering the negotiations.

Meanwhile, Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Palestinian President 'Arafat, said that it cannot be said that the talks have failed or that they have solved all the problems, but there is a slow progress at the talks. He stressed that both parties are determined to reach a solution to all problems and to remove all hurdles preventing an agreement on the second stage. He noted that the progress that has been made at the talks has to do with drawing up a timetable for Israeli withdrawal from all West Bank cities and areas.

Peres: Nothing Final Until Written Agreement

TA0908062895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 9 Aug 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz in Taba — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Raz] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will meet again

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this afternoon in Taba. This morning the Palestinian and Israeli working teams will start discussing the remaining points of disagreement. Last night, at the conclusion of the second meeting between 'Arafat and Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, as if to offset any talk about a breakthrough, warned that there was still no written agreement and nothing could be viewed as completely finalized until the documents were signed. Scant minutes later, 'Arafat spokesman reiterated that no progress had been made and that the main problems and difficulties remained unresolved. Nevertheless, despite the above remarks, the negotiations have definitely moved forward.

[Begin recording] [Peres] Today, we discussed the Hebron issue and the issue of area B. We reviewed economic issues. We discussed which powers would or would not be transferred. There were teams dealing with all these matters. Two teams have almost finished their work but not completely. There are still gaps.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, you just said that two teams had made significant progress. Which teams are these?

[Peres] Mainly on defining area C area and the transfer of non-territorial powers there. [end recording]

[Raz] Let us explain that area C is the part that will remain in Israel's hands. It includes the Jordan Rift Valley, the settlements, and military installations. As we just learned from Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, progress has been made on this issue. On the other hand, there are difficulties with regard to area B, which are the rural areas in the West Bank. After all, Israel will retain overriding responsibility for security in this area but there are disagreements with regard to the framework within which the Palestinian blue police will operate in West Bank villages. There are also difficulties with regard to the Hebron issue. At a discussion at the prime minister's bureau several days ago, it was decided to establish a subcommittee to handle this matter. The transfer of civil powers poses another difficulty. In this respect, one can note the water and land issues, which definitely constitute complicated and unresolved problems. However, if we must give a headline to the discussions and atmosphere here, then the negotiations are definitely making progress. To this one can add the agreement which began to take form on 7 August, according to which the second stage of the redeployment will start six months after the elections in the territories and last 18 months, ending sometime in the middle of 1997.

Palestinian Presents Proposal on Prisoners

TA0908074695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks will today discuss the release of security prisoners. Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, the Palestinian delegation member in charge of this issue, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Palestinians have handed Israel a working paper with a proposal to release all the security prisoners in three stages.

In the first stage, Israel will free all the women inmates and the sick, as well as those prisoners who have been jailed for over ten years. In the second stage, the Palestinians demand the release of all the prisoners arrested prior to the signing of the Washington agreement on 13 September 1993.

During the third stage, the Palestinians will demand the release of all the security prisoners still incarcerated in Israeli prisons. Abu-Zayidah said that Israel had still not replied to the Palestinians working paper.

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Algeria

Car Bomb Explodes in Algiers; 'At Least' 1 Dead

LD0808220895 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A car bomb exploded in Algiers this evening at 1945. It happened in the residential district of Ben-Aknoun. Eyewitnesses spoke of many injured and ambulances were still arriving. Amar Ben Salem reports from Algiers:

The bombers targetted the district's administrative offices. At this time of the evening the offices are closed, of course, and it was probably the archives and electoral documents that they sought to destroy.

Apart from the material damage, according to medical sources at least one passerby was killed.

The Ben-Aknoun administrative offices are located between a secondary school and a university center, both closed because of the holidays. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Kill 'Some 100' Islamists in Aug

LD0808141095 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On to the search operations carried out by the police forces in Algeria:

The daily EL WATAN reports today that some 100 presumed Islamists have reportedly been shot dead since last Wednesday in the region of Larba, about 30 km from Algiers. These search operations were started following a bomb attack against a military vehicle. Its four occupants were killed.

Journalist Murdered 1 Aug Identified

LD0808174495 Paris LCI Television in French 1600 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Violence continues in Algeria. A journalist with the weekly HEBDO LIBERE was killed on 1 August, 20- km south of Algiers. This is what we have just heard.

She had been kidnapped, tortured, and had her throat slit. Aicha Ben Amar's body could not be identified until 8 August.

President Zeroual Reshuffles Governors

LD0808224895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Liamine Zeroual, today reshuffled some governors, which has affected the following provinces:

Blida — Tahar Mellizi to succeed Dahman Maaziz;
Tissemsilt — Abdelaziz Benouaret to succeed Tahar Mellizi;
Tiaret — Ali Lahlouk to succeed Salah Anceur.

Al-Nahdah Proposes Postponing Elections

MM0808142495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Aug 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Algerian al-Nahdah Movement Proposes Postponement of Presidential Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Algerian Islamic al-Nahdah Party, headed by Shaykh Djaballah Djaballah, has called for the presidential elections in Algeria to be postponed for several months. It said that current circumstances do not allow the organization of free and legal elections. It urged a real dialogue with the opposition over the possibility of combining the presidential and legislative elections.

Djaballah said in a letter to President Liamine Zeroual in reply to the latter's letter, in which he called for a dialogue, which is expected to be held on 12 August, that the movement's Executive Bureau met and issued a statement explaining its position on the dialogue and current political conditions in Algeria and the reasons for it. The letter said:

"1. In its memorandums and numerous letters — such as the letter dated 9 April — and its various meetings, the movement stressed its firm belief that it is necessary to work to restore normal constitutional life. It proposed what it believed to be an objective, just, and balanced solution to ensure that the elections are free, fair, and pluralist, hence making a real start toward restoring security and stability, proceeding from the following points:

"— The Algerian crisis is a complicated political crisis requiring a comprehensive and just political solution with the participation of all political forces.
"— The process of organizing the elections is a joint responsibility between the authorities and the parties only. It should be conducted in accordance with clear and agreed criteria.
"— The elections' success requires cooperation in securing all the security, political, informational, and technical conditions required.
"— As an organized political class we are required to look for real solutions to the Algerian crisis — solutions that allow the establishment of the foundations of a stable regime providing all guarantees for real political practice.

"2. The movement believes that current security, political, informational, technical, and psychological circum-

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stances do not allow the organization of free and legal elections for the following reasons:

"— The serious security escalation which the national scene is experiencing;
"— The political boycott between the authorities and the opposition, which has been perpetuated by intransigent positions and the victor and vanquished policy and which has been fueled by the defamation campaigns through political marches and public media services and the lack of freedom to organize party rallies and activities, in addition to the media blackout imposed on the organized political forces;
"— The failure to secure favorable conditions throughout the homeland to guarantee that candidates contest the elections on equal terms and equally enjoy neutral coverage of the election campaign by the media and public services;
"— The lack of conditions guaranteeing that the elections are conducted away from any coercion, rigging, or election violence, or any kind of illegal practices;
"— The deterioration of the social situation as a result of the deepening economic crisis, which is expected to worsen further as a result of the effects of the rescheduling of debts and the continued deterioration of the security situation.

"3. We warn once again about the danger of continuing to pursue the policy of imposing a solution on the opposition, because such a policy conflicts with the principle of joint responsibility between the authorities and the parties for organizing the elections. And it is of no benefit to the homeland or the citizens, because it is deepening the crisis further and consolidating bad habits in dealings between the authorities and the opposition.

"These considerations prompt us to doubt the ability of these elections to produce results that would constitute a real start toward restoring security and stability. They also prompt us not to believe it is possible to secure the necessary security and the balanced neutrality required for the election campaign and the organization and management of the elections. They prompt us to believe that these elections would consolidate bad habits in the democratic process and prolong and complicate the crisis. They deepen our belief that looking for ways to resolve this crisis with all political parties is better than continuing the policy of organizing the elections unilaterally or without securing the necessary conditions."

The al-Nahdah Movement said in its letter: "The interests of the homeland and the people should be given priority over personal or factional interests. We believe that the good of the homeland and the people lies in the authorities' submission to the opposition's wish to organize a real dialogue that allows all the necessary conditions to be secured in order to organize free, fair, and democratic elections. It also lies in the opposition's submission to the authorities' wish to organize the elections as soon as possible.

"We believe that a mutual concession from both the authorities and the opposition would be to postpone the elections for several more months and to engage in a real dialogue with the opposition over combining the presidential elections and the legislative elections. And also over the various conditions that would cause the elections to be free and legal, such as looking for options capable of achieving the following: sparing blood; liberating political and informational action from the restrictions imposed on it at present; eliminating the causes of tension, fear, deception, and coercion; securing conditions for security; running the elections in a neutral and equal manner; and respecting their results."

Concluding, the movement said: "This is the movement's cry to rescue Algeria from the threats surrounding it as a result of the persistence in pursuing the victor and vanquished policy. This is its view of what you have called for. We hope that we have cleared our conscience before Almighty God and the people. And we hope that you will respond in your moral and personal capacity. The proverb says: Making erroneous decisions while consulting one another is better than making correct decisions based on autocracy and tyranny."

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Yasir 'Arafat in Alexandria

NC0808123595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria this morning. 'Arafat arrived in Alexandria earlier today. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also attended the meeting. Afterward a tripartite summit among President Husni Mubarak, United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and Palestinian President 'Arafat was held at the al-Muntazah Palace.

'Arafat, Musa Make Statements

NC0808152795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 8 Aug (MENA)— Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who was at hand to say good bye to Palestinian President 'Arafat, said that United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan had joined the meeting between

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President Mubarak and 'Arafat and that the three leaders held a tripartite summit.

In a predeparture statement at al-Nuzhah airport in Alexandria, 'Arafat thanked President Mubarak for his interest in all things that concern Palestine and the Palestinian people's cause and sanctities. He said that this stance is apparent not only to the Palestinian people but to the whole Arab and Islamic nation, who appreciate President Mubarak and the Egyptian people and government. He said: I briefed President Mubarak on the developments in the negotiations with the Israelis in Taba and the discussions at yesterday's meeting and on what is expected at today's meeting. He noted that Egypt, led by President Mubarak, is playing a big role in fully implementing the agreements, particularly the agreements signed in Washington and Cairo.

Asked about the latest developments in the negotiations with the Israelis, President 'Arafat said there are still some hurdles but they hope to overcome them and get reasonable results.

Responding to a question on the nature of the main obstacles at the negotiations, 'Arafat said: We hope for a reasonable outcome. However, he did not mention the nature of these obstacles.

Asked if agreement had been reached during the Taba talks on setting a date for the redeployment of the Israeli forces, 'Arafat said that they and the Israelis will reach an agreement on this at today's talks.

Foreign Minister Musa stressed that Palestinian sovereignty will be enhanced through the elections, which are part of the transitional stage that eventually will lead to the final negotiations.

Responding to a question on the obstacles facing the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, Musa said in remarks prior to 'Arafat's departure that these issues are for the Palestinians and Israelis to comment on. He noted that a tripartite summit among President Mubarak, Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin is not in the cards at present but cannot be ruled out in the near future.

On the possibility of Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres visiting Egypt in the near future, Musa said that he might visit, but it has not been agreed upon. He pointed out that one of the main issues being discussed is water rights, noting that if this issue is not settled both sides may continue to negotiate over it.

Regarding the al-Aqsa Mosque problem and Egypt's efforts in this regard as a member of the Jerusalem Committee, Musa said that this problem was adequately addressed in bilateral talks at the time. He added: We are all meticulously following all the issues relating to Jerusalem in view of the delicacy of this issue and to avoid arousing sensitivities, because the Jerusalem issue will be left for negotiations at the final stage. He noted that after resolving the problems of the redeployment of the Israeli forces and water rights, the two sides will hold final negotiations on the outstanding problems.

Musa went on to say that President 'Arafat had informed them that the negotiations will continue and that the two sides had already agreed on some points and will resume negotiations on the remaining issues. This, he said, shows both sides' desire to complete this issue as quickly as possible. He said that the time factor is important, because if this opportunity is missed, it will have a negative impact on public opinion. He said it is better to find solutions as quickly as possible.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said President Mubarak's talks with President 'Arafat dealt with the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, the redeployment of Israeli troops, and the elections during the second phase of the Oslo agreement.

He said the negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides will resume later today in Taba, adding that there is some progress but there still are points of dispute. He noted that the negotiations will continue for a period of time. He added that he hoped the period would be short.

The foreign minister described the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting as extremely important. He said the two presidents exchanged views on two main issues: the redeployment of troops and the elections, in addition to the future of Palestinian action and the importance of reaching an agreement on the second phase of the Oslo agreement.

Musa went on to say: Following today's meeting in Taba, we will make contacts to learn the outcome and what we can do. He said Egypt's contacts will also include the Israeli side, noting that Egypt has been in touch with the Israeli side over the past few days.

Musa stressed that the Egyptian position on this track is firm and is reflected in its backing for the Palestinian position and in its desire to implement the Oslo agreement—to move from the Gaza-Jericho phase to the second stage that includes holding elections, forming the Palestine National Council, and granting sovereignty to the recovered towns and villages.

Commenting on Palestinian sovereignty, President 'Arafat said this is a very important issue because this sovereignty is not a functional or nominal one but a real one, explaining that it transfers what Israel has been

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administering since 5 June 1967 to the Palestinians, who will express their political will.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expressed hope that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will end soon and that an agreement between them will be reached. He said reaching an agreement will lead to two things: redeployment outside Palestinian cities and villages and holding elections, which will highlight the features of the second stage of the Oslo agreement. He stressed that the Egyptian position will continue to support the Palestinian position.

He noted that the Palestinian role at this stage aims to implement the Oslo agreement in letter and spirit, adding that this role is sound and is what Egypt is backing.

UAE President Meets With Mubarak, Departs

NC0808160295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and his accompanying delegation left Alexandria this afternoon after a two-day visit. During his visit, Shaykh Zayid held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the Arab region, the peace process, and a number of Islamic issues, primarily the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They also discussed ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation. President Mubarak escorted Shaykh Zayid from al-Muntazah Palace to the Burj al-'Arab airport west of Alexandria to bid him good bye. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif Comments on Meeting

NC0808154395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 8 Aug (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that the tripartite summit in Alexandria today among President Husni Mubarak, United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat dealt with the peace talks between the Palestinians and Israelis in light of the current meetings between 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Taba. In a statement after the tripartite meeting this afternoon, al-Sharif said that the three leaders had reviewed the ongoing efforts to bring the views of the Palestinian and Israelis closer in order to ensure a fair agreement, because the Palestinian issue is the crux of the peace process in the Middle East.

Musa Comments on Zayid's Visit

NC0808154795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 8 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said the visit to Egypt of United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan is extremely important and is a link in the chain of meetings and consultations on regional issues between the leaders of the two countries.

In statements prior to the departure of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at al-Nuzhah airport today, the foreign minister said Presidents Mubarak and Zayid discussed issues of mutual concern. He added that Egyptian and UAE officials also exchanged views concerning the Gulf, the peace process, and the region's future.

Fundamentalist Group Vows To 'Liquidate' Mubarak

NC0808204995 Paris AFP in English 1850 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 8 (AFP) — The armed fundamentalist group Tala'i al-Fatah (Vanguard of the Conquest) vowed Tuesday [8 August] to wipe out President Husni Mubarak following the execution of two of its militants.

"We pledge in the name of God not to leave you alone, Mubarak, and the sons of the movement are determined to liquidate you and destroy you, you will see," the group said in a statement.

After recalling that "Mubarak's heretical regime executed two mujahedeen (Moslem fighters)," the militant group said it would continue its holy war "as long as we are alive and until the fall of the regime."

The two militants, Husam Hasan Isma'il and Ahmad Mahmud 'Abd-al-Rahim, were executed Sunday after being convicted of the murders of a policeman in Suez in 1993 and three Coptic Christian civilians in February 1994.

Tala'i al-Fatah is considered the armed wing of Al-Jihad, the fundamentalist group responsible for the assassination of former Egyptian president Anwar al-Sadat in 1981.

It also welcomed a failed attempt by another Islamic militant group, the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, to kill Sadat's successor, Mubarak, in Addis Ababa on June 26.

"We are convinced that the victory of God is close and the sons of Jihad (holy war) are capable of striking

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mortal blows at apostates ... What our brothers, the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah martyrs, did in Addis Ababa is the proof," the statement said.

Tala'i al-Fatah claimed two abortive assassination attempts against Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in November 1993 and Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi three months earlier.

Egyptian security forces killed two members of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah on Tuesday in a raid on their hideout near the village of Al-'Idwah, 230 kilometres (140 miles) south of Cairo in al-Minya province, police said.

"The two fundamentalists, Nadi Abu-al-Sa'ud, 28, and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif, 32, were implicated in 12 attacks against police and civilians in several areas of the province," a policeman said.

Their deaths took to 840 the number of people who have died since armed Islamic fundamentalists began a violent campaign to bring down the government in March 1992. Much of the violence has been concentrated in al-Minya during the last year.

MB's al-Hudaybi Views Election Participation

NC0808132095 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 3-9 Aug p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite the clampdown, the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood [MB] is determined to contest the upcoming parliamentary elections, expected in November, and to keep alive a "tripartite alliance" with the Labour and Liberal parties, the organisation's spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi told AL-AHRAM WEEKLY. And in a challenge to the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), some of the arrested Brotherhood figures will run as candidates from behind bars by granting their defence lawyers power of attorney to act as their legal representatives, Al-Hudaybi said.

Potential candidates include 'Isam al-'Iryan, assistant secretary-general of the Doctors' Syndicate, Muhammad al-'Irwi, a member of the Engineers' Syndicate's Council, Muhammad Habib of Asyut University, Al-Sayyid Nizli of the Giza Governorate's Social Affairs Department, Mohamed Fu'ad 'Abd-al-Majid of the Kafr Al-Shaykh branch of the Doctors' Syndicate and former MPs Mohamed Husayn 'Isa, Husayn al-Jamal and Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hakim.

Their nomination, al-Hudaybi said, will promote the Brotherhood's popularity: "The fact that they are detained will help them muster greater popular support and pose a big challenge to the ruling party."

Al-Hudaybi said that the alliance with Ibrahim Shukri's Labour Party and Mustafa Kamil Murad's Liberal Party has been very much alive since it was forged in 1987, and added, "We wholeheartedly welcome this alliance."

But noting statements by President Husni Mubarak that the next elections will be conducted according to the individual candidacy system, al-Hudaybi said: "This differs from the [state] system under which we formed the alliance. It means that the ultimate decision to run in the elections rests in the hands of individuals and not with the party or the organisation. However, a number of the organisation's detained members expressed the wish to nominate themselves since the law entitles citizens who are in custody or serving penalties to run in elections as long as they are not held in connection with dishonourable crimes. We know that the government can tread this law underfoot. But this is something else. At any rate, the Brothers will do their best to win seats in the next parliament."

Ahmad Hamadi, a member of the People's Assembly's Legislative Committee, confirms that it is legal for Brotherhood members to run while in prison, "so long as they nominate themselves as independents and not as an organisation," he said. However, Hamadi warned, "The Brotherhood is an outlawed group, and it exploits the democratic process as a way of achieving its real aim, which is the overthrow of the political regime." Public opinion should be made aware of this, he added.

The arrest of 200 Brotherhood members at a scout camp in Alexandria is seen by al-Hudaybi as "part of the government's attempt to negatively affect the chances of the Brotherhood in the next elections.

"They want to give the world the impression that we are terrorists and that we have training camps for terrorists, although those camps were officially approved by the authorities."

Al-Hudaybi said that the earlier arrest and detention of 19 leading Brotherhood figures was meant to intimidate a court which was scheduled at the time to decide whether another group of Brotherhood officials, arrested in January, should be released. Their arrest was also meant to thwart their chances of contesting the parliamentary election, al-Hudaybi added.

Mustafa Mashhur, deputy to the organisation's Supreme Guide, told the WEEKLY that he feared the arrests might undermine the Brotherhood's chances in the elections. This is because, he said, "some of the arrested Brothers were planning to run as candidates while others were preparing to organise election campaigns for them."

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However, spokesmen for the Labour and Liberal parties confirmed that their alliance with the Brotherhood would continue through the next elections. Muhammab Farid Zakariya, the Liberals' deputy chairman, said three-way consultations were underway to allocate constituencies where candidates from the three groups would not stand against each other. A committee has also been set up to coordinate the promotional campaigns of the alliance as well as their financial resources, he said.

Secretary-general of the Labour Party, 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat, said the alliance was moving towards an agreement with the Brotherhood and the Liberals on a list of names of their candidates. This list, he said, should be completed by the end of this month.

Court Orders Release of 20 More MB Members

NC0808182695 Paris AFP in English 1507 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 8 (AFP) — Egypt's high security prosecutor ordered the release on Tuesday [8 August] of 20 members of the Moslem Brotherhood [MB] arrested in July on suspicion of seeking to overthrow the state, legal sources here said.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry set free 110 Brothers arrested in the same case, a day after prosecutors ordered an end to their detention, police sources said. Both groups were among 180 Brothers arrested July 28 in a scout camp near the north coast city of Alexandria in the largest sweep against the group since President Husni Mubarak came to power in 1981.

The 50 still held in detention for investigation are accused of taking martial arts training to perform "combat missions" and belonging to a secret organization seeking to topple the government.

Banned in 1954, the Moslem Brotherhood has been tolerated since the mid 1970s when the group said it renounced violence in its bid to create an Islamic state in Egypt. But police have stepped up arrests against the group since Mubarak accused it in early 1994 of supporting armed Moslem extremists waging a violent three-year campaign against the state. The Brotherhood denies the charges, saying the crackdown aims to prevent them from entering legislative elections planned for later this year.

Abazah Views Nuclear Reactors, Electricity Grid

NC0808164295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Aug 95 p 5

[Interview with Electricity and Energy Minister Engineer Mahir Abazah by correspondent 'Adil al-Bahnasawi; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Bahnasawi] Some political forces accuse you of foiling attempts to establish an Egyptian nuclear program.

[Abazah] (laughs at the word accused) I am accused. This is not true. I am an Egyptian minister and proud that I have been serving Egypt all my life. Therefore, I will answer the question by saying that if this is about reactors, then the government has obtained two. One is a modernized, efficient 2-MW reactor. The other is a 25-MW reactor that is being installed in Inshas. The government purchased it from Argentina. It is one of the largest research reactors in the world and complements peaceful nuclear expertise. We have not been silent and the government has not been idle. It agreed to finance and install it. When the installation is complete, our scientists will work in it and study modern developments in agriculture, industry, medicine, and other peaceful purposes.

Regarding electricity-generating reactors, this was proceeding at a normal pace until the Chernobyl catastrophe, in which an explosion caused radiation to leak, destroying crops and contaminating people, animals, and food with radiation. The Egyptian people — who I do not believe accuse me of negligence — saw the extent of the catastrophe and the tragedy that resulted from the reactor explosion. Because of this, we will wait until we are sure that reactors in Europe and the United States reach the utmost level of safety before going ahead with our project. We will then ask the Cabinet to look into implementing the project.

[Al-Bahnasawi] But the government made positive statements and agreed to let the private sector participate in building a nuclear reactor. What are the latest developments?

[Abazah] We are now waiting for reaction. The private sector is saying it is ready but, most importantly, our scientists must continue studying the latest security developments before we proceed with the project. [passage omitted]

[Al-Bahnasawi] Will not Iraq's participation in the [Middle East] electricity grid mean cooperating with Egypt following a period of tension?

[Abazah] Iraq has existed a long time and it still exists. It found that a link between Damascus and Baghdad was

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very costly; it opted for a link from Baghdad to Zako and then to Turkey. We will converge with the grid in Turkey.

[Al-Bahnasawi] Could not this project be affected by politics among these countries?

[Abazah] I do not believe so. The project will start from Cairo to Amman, Damascus, and then Turkey. There was some political tension in the past but faxes, telephone calls, and messages did not stop; countries respect projects that are economically beneficial. [passage omitted]

Libya

Government Reportedly To Buy Uranium From Kazakhstan

LD0808212995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] JANA has learned that the great Jamahiriyah intends to buy quantities of the radioactive material uranium from the Republic of Kazakhstan within the framework of the existing cooperation between the two countries.

Alleged Poison Gas Equipment Exporter Arrested

95EN0338B Bonn DIE WELT in German 12 Jul 95

[Article by Martin Halusa: "Exporter Arrested for Arms Trading; Rose Firm of Stuttgart Allegedly Involved in Construction of Poison Gas Facility in Libya"—received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Stuttgart entrepreneur Hans-Joachim Rose was arrested yesterday on suspicion of a violation of the foreign trade law. In the morning some 100 officers of the Federal Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Customs Office of Criminal Investigation searched the offices of the export/import enterprise and its supplier firms in a nationwide raid. Rose is to be brought before the examining magistrate today.

According to a report by DER STERN, the businessman is said to have delivered gas purification facilities to Libya via cover firms and a partner in India. The plants can be used for the manufacture of pesticides as well as the production of poison gas. Gernot Blessing, spokesman of the Stuttgart prosecutor's office, said that in addition to 13 firms in German cities, the documents of an enterprise in Switzerland were also seized.

Rose, born in 1948, had been sentenced in March 1991 to 21 months in jail with parole for exporting testing equipment for chemical agents and NBC [nuclear, biological, and chemical] protective suits to Libya.

The alleged poison gas plant in Tarhuna, 65 km south of the Libyan capital of Tripoli, originally was to be capable of producing chemical and biological agents by spring of this year. But according to information by DIE WELT, the factory is neither in operation at this time nor is there any knowledge about construction work. Many of the delivered machines and equipment stand idle on the factory grounds. Thus there is speculation that Libyan head of state Muammar al Qadhdhafi, due to international pressure, dropped the project quite some time ago.

Two years ago, German enterprises were investigated because of their involvement in the construction—in addition to Rabta—of a second poison gas facility in Libya. For a long time it was not clear whether the firms were aware of the planned use of the facility—now the suspicion seems to be becoming stronger. Enterprises from Switzerland, Thailand, Japan, Austria, and France also appear to have participated in the construction.

The Libyan Government claims that the tunnels of the facility spotted by Western intelligence satellites are part of the "great river." Qadhdhafi's showcase project, costing $25 billion, is to artificially irrigate the coastal region with groundwater from the Sahara. But U.S. intelligence circles report that the air intake and air escape systems of the tunnels in Tarhuna, supplied by a Swiss enterprise, are an unequivocal clue to the construction of a chemical facility. This is also indicated by expensive security and alarm systems.

The plans for the chemical plant correspond in essential details to the construction sketches for the poison gas facility in Rabta. That factory had been built by the German enterprise Imhausen-Chemie, Lahr. Its owner, Juergen Hippenstihl-Imhausen, was sentenced in 1990 to five years imprisonment.

Banghazi Incidents Said To Lead to 5,000 Arrests

MM0808155095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Talhah Jibril: "5,000 Arrested in Libya Following Recent Incidents"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rabat — Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al—Qadhdhafi is continuing his tour of Barqah province. He started with a visit to Banghazi, the second largest city in Libya, in the wake of the incidents that occurred there, in which fundamentalist elements were implicated and which led to clashes with security forces in various areas of Barqah province. Col. al-Qadhdhafi visited al-Bayda' city yesterday. The Libyan news agency [JANA] said that he met there with the popular leaderships and

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requested them to "reshape society and to abandon any negative aspects that hamper that."

Meanwhile, well-informed sources have pointed out that the arrest campaign that followed the recent incidents affected some 5,000 people. However, official sources have once again played down the importance of these incidents, describing those involved as a group of "atheists and criminals," as fundamentalists are called in Libya. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader on Banghazi, Other Issues

MM0808130395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Aug 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "The Libyan National Alliance: Libya Has No Moral Right to Security Council Membership"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — Mr. 'Ashur Bin-Khayyal, deputy general secretary of the opposition Libyan National Alliance, said that the recent events in Banghazi and other parts of Libya "were caused by some young people belonging to the Islamic tendency and showed great courage and a qualitative move in facing up to the regime's repressive and tyrannical acts against the Libyan people in general and the young people of the Islamic tendency in particular. And in spite of the defamation campaign directed at these young people by the regime, which is trying to capitalize on it on a regional and international scale, we have no doubt whatsoever that these are the beliefs of the Libyan people who do not resort to extremism or terrorism to achieve their aims and aspirations. This is the product of repression and coercion that the Libyan people have been subjected to during all these years."

On the subject of the continuing disappearance of the alliance's General Secretary Mansur al-Kikhya, Bin-Khayyal said: "In spite of our total conviction that he is the detainee of the Libyan authorities, we would like to ask Egypt, on whose territory al-Kikhya disappeared just like our brothers Jaballah Matar and Izzat al-Muqaryif before him, what the reasons were for halting its investigation of this case and if the previous investigation was completed, and also why nothing was published regarding this matter and several other questions with potentially dangerous results. Egypt is the big sister and neighbor and has been throughout history a haven and refuge for any Libyan facing injustice and tyranny in his own land, and we implore President Husni Mubarak in his capacity as the highest authority in the government to intervene personally so that the truth behind these disappearances as well as the fate of the missing persons is known."

Regarding the controversy surrounding Libya's membership of the Security Council, Bin-Khayyal said: "We greatly rejoiced when Libya was made a member of the Security Council for the first time in its history in 1976 and 1977. I personally had the honor of being a member of its delegation during that period under the chairmanship of our brother Mansur al-Kikhya who played the main part in all the international positions and affairs that were on its agenda. He chaired the council for two sessions during which time he was commended for his high standard of competence and ability to take responsibility. However, circumstances in Libya have changed totally and worsened palpably. No longer do we have anyone of the same high caliber as the likes of Mansur al-Kikhya to shoulder this momentous position. Moreover, the Libyan foreign ministry, and especially its representatives abroad, have become preoccupied since around 1980 with other suspicious and destructive activities. It has practiced terrorism via its revolutionary and intelligence operatives and is responsible for killing and torturing scores of Libyans abroad. It is also responsible for firing from its compounds on peaceful Libyan student demonstrators.

"Consequently, in view of these and other facts, we have doubts about Libya's moral right to Security Council membership, when it is internationally accused of supporting terrorism and is responsible for the abduction of Mansur al-Kikhya, its first delegate to the Security Council."

He welcomed "any meeting aimed at bringing together various viewpoints and coordinating between the factions and leaders of the Libyan opposition, which would heighten the level of national achievement during this critical phase that the country is passing through. We are in dire need of strengthening our ranks and rebuilding our structures. We also need to put in more effort and sacrifice: That is the challenge to the national will and the vanguards of its struggle. We must concentrate all our resources to achieve a united, compact front, strong inside and outside."

In conclusion, Bin-Khayyal expressed the wish that all would refrain from using the name "Libyan National Struggle Movement" which he leads. The movement is "part of the Libyan National Alliance, since its inception on 25 November 1987, and all its pronouncements were made under the umbrella of the alliance and in conjunction with its members."

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Source Says Country Set To Expel Palestinians

MM0808155895 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 8 Aug 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Libya Prepares To Expel Palestinians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — A Palestinian source stated yesterday that the Libyan authorities have recently escalated their campaign against members of the Palestinian community working in the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

The charge d'affaires of the Palestinian Embassy in Algiers said that Libyan security authorities had initiated a campaign to round up Palestinians in camps near the Egyptian border in preparation for their expulsion, after finding a country that would be willing to receive them. He added that the Libyans had announced that this was a reaction to the Oslo agreement signed between Israel and the PLO in 1993.

The Palestinian diplomat expressed his belief that "the despotic measures against Palestinians in Libya were in line with a plan to tighten the noose on Palestinians on a regional scale and to round them up and put them in desert camps with extremely difficult human conditions."

Mauritania

New Party Recognized by Interior Ministry

LD0908092395 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The number of political parties in the country reached 20 after the Ministry of Interior, Posts, and Communications granted recognition of a new party under the name of the Unionist, Democratic, and Socialist Party.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Discusses Domestic, International Issues

MM0808131195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Aug 95 p 3

[Interview with President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir by Malik Ja'far in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ja'far] Six years have elapsed since the Salvation Revolution attained power in Sudan...what has been the yield of these years?

[Al-Bashir] Let us begin by talking about the biggest problem facing the country, namely, that of security. Sudan's continuation and existence as a state were under threat and the rebel movement headed the list of threats to its security. At that time, the rebel movement had the initiative and its fingers had reached even Khartoum.

I recall that at the time of the staging of the revolution, Garang was drawing up plans for the seizure of al-Damazin and Kosti, which are vital areas, as well as Abu Zabad so as to cut off western Sudan. This, indeed, could have happened. Even after the staging of the revolution, Garang occupied the city of al-Kurnuk. This is because the Sudanese Armed Forces were in a state of semi-disarray.

The Sudanese military forces stationed in southern Sudan fell under siege, and except for the cities of al-Rank and Malakal, the rebel movement controlled all the regions east of the Nile, penetrated the Nubian mountain areas, and marched forward in an attempt to seize the railways at Abu Zabad.

There were also Garang supporters inside Khartoum itself. I recall in this regard that at the beginning of the Salvation Revolution, fire with live ammunition was opened at a procession which was moving in the direction of the General Command in Khartoum.

At Darfur, tribal conflicts were raging between some Arab tribes and al-Fur tribes. Armed robber gangs were in full control of Darfur.

Meanwhile, in east Sudan, military mobilization was in full swing between the al-Hadanduwah and al-Rasha'idah tribes. Arms were being amassed and trenches were being dug in preparation for an armed confrontation. That is how the state of security was at the time we assumed power. So let us now review what has happened in the era that followed the aforementioned era.

The first achievement was the Salvation Revolution's total crushing of the rebel movement and the seizure of the entire initiative by the Sudanese armed forces. So when you hear now of voices raised abroad attacking Sudan and speaking of annihilations and the shelling of civilians, it is because the rebel movement began to collapse without achieving any of its objectives at all. Thus, the principal achievement of the revolution in this context is its subjugation of the rebel movement and the establishment of stability in Darfur and other parts of Sudan.

The second achievement concerns the state of famine. When we came to power, Sudan was suffering from disasters and famine. But thanks be to God, all that is now in the past. At present, we are not only self-sufficient but we also export our surplus crops of corn and tobacco. We have also become the first country in the world to produce wheat in hot regions.

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There are, however, some objective conditions which compel us to import some of our wheat needs. But we are continuing our efforts to increase the areas of our cropland and we are on the way to achieving self-sufficiency in the sphere of wheat as well.

With regard to general education, we have achieved a 100-percent increase in the field of higher education in the period from 30 June 1989 until now. This means that we have achieved in six years as much as had been achieved since the days of Rifa'ah Rafi' al-Tahtawi until 1989.

With regard to the sphere of normal development, there are numerous road projects being constructed simultaneously at present. There is, for example, the Sinjah-Sennar-Damazin road, and the Damazin-Rosieres road and the "Challenge" road which runs between Kabushiyah and Atbarah, and the Madani-Manaqil road, and the Khashm al-Qirbah-Halqa-Sab'at road, and the "Peace" road between Rabak and al-Jabalayn, and many others.

In the field of health, we have gone a long way toward refurbishing hospitals and supplying them with the necessary equipment and apparatus.

There is a great deal I can say about the yield of the six years of the Salvation Revolution. What I have mentioned are only some of these achievements.

[Ja'far] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak says that he has no animosity toward the Sudanese people, but only toward the regime that rules Sudan. What do you have to say about that?

[Al-Bashir] There are several reasons that explain the animosity of the present Egyptian Government toward Sudan.

When the Salvation Revolution began, Egypt was the first to support it. The Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum contacted us and congratulated us and asked if there was anything it could do. Our reply was quick. We said, we request Egypt to get in touch with the other Arab countries in order to ensure their support for Khartoum and to mobilize its huge information machine for serving our interests.

Arab support came swiftly and the Egyptian information media opened their facilities completely to us. Relations between us and Egypt continued to be very good for some time.

However, it soon became evident to us that the brothers in Egypt could not comprehend the fact that the regime in Khartoum was an independent one. It also became evident that their thoughts revolved around playing an important role in running the regime in Sudan.

The first surprise to us came when the [Egyptian] consul contacted us to inform us that Egypt was ready to appoint a political adviser to the [Sudanese] Revolution Command Council.

The second surprise took place following the visit of Faysal 'Ali Salih [not identified] to Cairo. Faysal returned from Cairo carrying a small dossier containing the names of 85 Sudanese whom Cairo said had been chosen to visit Garang and hold negotiations with him. Of the 85 people chosen, only five were representatives of the Government of the Republic of Sudan. The remaining were representatives of Egyptian interests, Sudanese trade unions, and various other Sudanese federations.

This was the start of the rift that afflicted Sudanese-Egyptian relations. For we rejected the proposed list and explained to Egypt that this action was tantamount to interference in the affairs of Sudan going beyond all limits, and that if there was any role Egypt could play in the negotiations between the Sudanese Government and Garang, it would be the role of mediator.

Thereupon, I went on a secret visit to Kenya. None of the Revolution Command Council members knew of this visit, other than al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih and 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn. Accompanied by only a secretary and an interpreter, I went to meet with Arap Moi. I was supposed to meet with Garang. Following my return, the Egyptians protested,asking how I could go on a visit without letting them know or telling them of its results.

Then came the proclamation of integration between Sudan and Libya, and this led to the further deterioration of relations [between Sudan and Egypt]. Then came the Gulf war.

Cairo was also disturbed by the application of Islamic laws in the Sudan. Statements began to be uttered about Sudan's support for Islamic organizations in Egypt. So I met with Egyptian intelligence chief 'Umar Sulayman al-Harith personally and asked him: In your capacity as intelligence chief and the one who possesses more information than anyone else on the financial support received by Islamic organizations in Egypt, where did you get this information that is being disseminated, for we in Sudan are the ones who know most about ourselves and we know that we do not provide any support for the Islamist organizations? He replied frankly that the support which Sudan gives to the Islamist organizations is not material support, nor support in the form of arms, training, and funds, but rather moral support.

Furthermore, Egypt considers its national security to be closely tied to Sudan. The question of water is still

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strategically vital, particularly as the Nile water has been gaining importance day by day. There are new changes taking place within the [Nile] basin countries. There is a drought and so countries which did not share in the Nile water in the past, have begun to feel the need for Nile water. This is in addition to the use of greater quantities of water in Sudan because of the waves of migration, as people who lived in the past away from the Nile, began to feel attracted to agricultural expansion.

Our talk about water projects and the growing exploitation of the Nile water have aroused the Egyptian Government's concern. All it cares about is to have a regime in Sudan that is at its total disposal (right-left, left-right) [moving in whatever direction it wants it to].

This is the story of the change that has taken place in the relations between the two countries, bringing them down from their heights in 1989 to the present deteriorated stage.

[Ja'far] The question of Hala'ib is still ablaze. The Arab League does not wish to intervene in this matter or act as a go-between, on the grounds that Hala'ib is a bilateral issue which Egypt and Sudan can resolve by themselves. Do you think the United Nations will place the Hala'ib question on its agenda as you have asked?

[Al-Bashir] The issues put before regional or international organizations are no longer looked upon with the neutral or positive eye that would realize the justice sought from them. All these issues have been politicized and now serve specific quarters.

If there is an explosive issue such as that of Hala'ib, leading to military clashes and deaths between two countries, then the Arab League should not wait until it is asked, like anybody else, to take a stand toward it.

As to the United Nations, it has become one of the strong tools in the hands of the new world order, which uses it for the realization of its objectives. I can give you one simple illustration of this. When the Gulf crisis erupted, the United Nations adopted resolutions against Iraq on the pretext that Iraq violated international legitimacy. It was pledged then that henceforth no quarter would be permitted to bypass international legitimacy. But this pledge collapsed following the end of the Gulf war. Thus, the Palestinians are being driven away from their lands and homes without any measures being taken to stop this. The massacres and other things that have been happening to the Bosnian people show that the international organizations have been politicized and serve the interests of the countries that dominate them. The relations between us in Sudan and the countries dominating the United Nations are well known.

[Ja'far] The United States classifies Sudan as one of the countries that supports terrorism and speaks of terrorist training camps. How would you reply to that? Why do you not organize an open tour for foreign and Arab journalists to visit any areas suspected of involvement in this regard in Sudan so that they see things for themselves and verify [that these allegations are unfounded]?

[Al-Bashir] An investigation was carried out at the U.S. State Department and discussions were held about whether to place the name of Sudan on the list of countries that support terrorism. Brother 'Ali al-Hajj went to Washington and met with the official in charge of the section concerned with terrorist affairs at the State Department. The responsible lady told him that the proofs that were provided were not sufficient for placing the name of Sudan on the list of the countries that support terrorism. 'Ali al-Hajj had a look at the reports received by the State Department and discovered that they had been prepared by Egyptian intelligence.

A year later, 'Ali al-Hajj again went to Washington and met with the same responsible lady and found that last year's reports were still the same, and that the Egyptians could not provide any new evidence. So we were surprised to learn later that we had been placed on the list of countries that support terrorism.

For this reason, whenever there is talk about terrorism, we always ask for proofs. We have asked the embassies of the various countries who are accredited to our country (and they possess the ability to give more correct information) to specify the quarters, or the locations of the camps they are talking about, as we are prepared to facilitate visits to all places suspected of having terrorist training camps.

I wish to mention in this regard that the U.S. ambassador met with Abu-Salih once when he was minister of foreign affairs to inform him that he had some information about training elements in the al-Markhiyat area. Abu-Salih's reply was to offer to go by car together to al-Markhiyat to investigate the matter. Naturally, the visit did not take place, for the matter was no more than mere rumors which are continually disseminated about the training of terrorists by Sudan.

[Ja'far] Signs of a relaxation have begun to appear in relations between Sudan and the Gulf countries. Are there any new developments on the road to normalization of relations between the two sides?

[Al-Bashir] This is only natural. A long time has elapsed since the Gulf war and it is sufficient to melt the bitterness that lurks in people's hearts, whatever these bitterness may be. We believe that it is illogical that

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life in its entirety should come to an end on 2 August 1990. Problems and confrontations take place between countries and so do wars. But after that, things change. Europe sparked off two world wars which claimed the lives of millions of people, yet Europe is unifying now.

For this reason, we find it only natural for people to begin to overcome the aftereffects of 2 August, particularly when we are living through economic conditions from which all of us are suffering. All the Arab countries without exception have paid a very high price for the Gulf war. There is a general feeling prevailing among the Arab countries at present about the need for overcoming differences and the restoration of the unity of Arab ranks. The interests that bind people together are greater than those that divide them.

On our part, we have actually felt the early signs of improvements in relations. But still we cannot say that matters have reached the full normalization we aspire to. We can say that there are varying degrees of relaxation in relations between Sudan and the Gulf countries. Our relations with Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman, for example, have returned to their old normalcy. There is also a relative detente in our relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain. I can even say that a calm atmosphere has been prevailing in our relations with Kuwait and meetings have been taking place within the framework of the various conferences. Kuwait's insistence on issuing a statement saying that they would not reject a visit by the Sudanese foreign minister, instead of just keeping quiet about the matter, provides yet another pointer. But we cannot say that there is yet a detente. Anyway, diplomatic relations between Sudan and Kuwait have never ceased, for the embassy is still there though the level of representation has been dropped to that of a charge d'affaires.

[Ja'far] The Sudanese opposition abroad says that the [National] Islamic Front is in control of the government in Sudan. Could you explain the relationship between the executive authority and the Islamic Front?

[Al-Bashir] Following the staging of the Salvation revolution, elements of the Islamic Front rushed to express their support for it. The support of the Islamic Front elements of the revolution was due to two reasons: The first was that the front was in opposition during the era of the parties and so it was only natural for it to support the revolution. The second was that the regime's Islamic tendencies prompted them to support it.

On our part, we were in need of active cadres. The front's cadres were the majority among the intelligentsia as was evident from the election results in graduate circles. So we began to make use of their cadres because we cannot rule without military cadres.

Thus, we made use of the front's cadres to fill the large administrative vacuum that existed. But, on the other hand, we did not close the doors to any other cadres. We based our plans on the fact that the street in Sudan was Islamic: The Ummah Party was an Islamic Party and its program was a program of "Islamic Awakening" (though it might have a margin for secular people); the Unionist Party was also an Islamic party and its program was "the Islamic Republic"; and the front was an Islamic party. From this, it can be seen that the broad base was an Islamic one. We also have great hopes pinned on the other factions including the Sudanese communists. I personally have sat with Muhammad Ibrahim Naqd and had a dialogue with him. In his opinion, the Communist Party is also an Islamic party and anyone who says there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad was the Messenger of Allah is a Muslim. Some of the Communists perform prayers, at least in public.

We did not have any problem with the Ba'thists either. We felt that the closest elements to us were the elements of Arab nationalism (the Ba'thists and the Nasirites) and we agree with them on at least 80 percent of our policies. We met with a number of Arab nationalist leaders such as Taysir Muddathir and held discussions with them until they joined us: Taysir Muddathir joined the National Council while 'Umar Muhajir joined the National Council and the Peace Council.

By the way, there was another person called 'Umar Muhajir in the Islamic Front. So when we announced the appointment of 'Umar Muhajir to the National Council, the front's member Muhajir thought he was the one intended by this appointment. So he "dressed up and came," ready to work. He never thought that the one intended by the appointment could be the Ba'thist 'Umar Muhajir.

In the light of all this, I can say that the government setup in Sudan (the cabinet, the National Council, the provincial councils, and the provincial governments' councils) comprises a broad base of participants. True, the number of front members is relatively greater than the number of members of other organizations, but the base of representation is broad.

[Ja'far] The Asmara conference has come out with recommendations which inter alia included armed action, the separation between religion and politics, and the granting of the right to self-determination to southern Sudan. What do you think of that?

[Al-Bashir] In my opinion, the Asmara document was drafted by the rebel movement and the Communists,

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and the Ummah and Unionist parties had no share in the declaration — I mean, they have given in to all the demands of the rebel movement and even more.

I cannot understand how Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani [from the Ummah Party] and Mubarak al-Fadil [from the Unionist Party] could sign a document separating religion from the state, because their occupying their leading positions is based on religion. Mubarak al-Fadil has never worked in any state institution, nor did he rise gradually in the state's hierarchy and nor did he rise through the party's cadres from the base to the top. His only asset was his name, Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, through which he entered the political bureau and became minister. Mubarak al-Fadil was nominated as candidate for the Tandalti constituency, though he was neither born nor educated there and has no maternal or paternal uncles there either. He was nominated just because he was from "The Mahdis." It was on this basis that he won and became minister.

The second point, the two men's acceptance that there should not be any parties based on religion, means the immediate dissolution of both the Ummah and the Unionist parties.

In my opinion, the Asmara document was tantamount to a declaration of allegiance: The rebel movement would bring down the government with its armed capabilities and the major parties would rule and grant the rebel movement the right to separate the south and give the areas of the Nubian mountains, al-Anqasna [name as transliterated], and 'Ubayy [name as transliterated] the right of self-determination. If this were to take place, we do not know where it would stop. We do not believe that once Garang seizes power in Sudan he would be prepared to let go of it.

[Ja'far] In the days when the battles were raging, the war in the south used to cost the state $1 million daily. How did you manage to find the funds for it? Have you resorted to cease-fire as a phased measure to alleviate the financial burdens or are you seriously thinking of finding a radical solution to the problem?

[Al-Bashir] The war is costly and prevents the exploitation of resources, makes idle more than three million of the production forces, who naturally flee from the operations' arenas, and depletes resour

As to your question about the sources of finance for the war, I reply by saying: We finance the war in southern Sudan from our own resources. The volume of the cost mentioned is not really the actual cost of expenditure. What we wish to affirm is that the expenditure on the war was a governmental one and from the state's funds and not from any outside quarter. For example, the Iranians did not finance the war in southern Sudan, as is being said.

As to the talk about the cease-fire, fighting is not a hobby nor a soccer game. Our insistence on the cessation of the war was what prompted us to knock on every door leading to peace.

However, there are some who say that "we have suspended the peace agreement." This is not true. What we did was that we suspended the "surrender agreement," be it that of the al-Mirghani agreement in the days of the parties, or the Asmara agreement, whose conditions were dictated by Garang, and all the parties did was approve of it.

We are convinced that the war has fulfilled its mission of alerting people to the injustices that existed such as backwardness in the south, lack of equality, absence of fair distribution of wealth, and absence of justice in the field of development.

Furthermore, all the sides are convinced that the war cannot be settled by the achievement of victory. In his present condition in Nimule and Kaia Garang has no alternative but to negotiate. He can no longer say to his followers that he wants to kill in order to seize power in Khartoum.

The climate is ready for agreement. But one of the problems that is slowing down the peace process is that the rebel movement was not free. There are quarters which finance the war and do not wish to see peace reign over Sudan.

[Ja'far] A state of international isolation has been imposed on Sudan. The results of your discussions with the IMF are considered in the eyes of many to hold the key to the lifting of the isolation or to its intensification. Do you agree to this view? Was the IMF decision against you within the framework of a political one?

[Al-Bashir] The IMF used to treat Sudan as a pampered son. During the years of the Numayri regime, it granted Sudan limitless loans. All the debts Sudan incurred took place in the period from 1971 to 1984, which is roughly the period of Numayri's rule, and precisely from the time of the strike against the communists, following the coup of Hashim al-'Ata, until the proclamation of the Islamic laws. In other words, financing has been politicized.

Following the application of the Islamic laws in Sudan, the IMF began to brand Sudan as an uncooperative country. Even party-based governments did not abolish the Islamic laws, and so did not receive priority treatment from the IMF.

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The United States used all sorts of pressure to win the necessary votes of support for the anti-Sudan resolutions including the resolution branding Sudan as "a noncooperative state."

The next step was to force Sudan to withdraw [from IMF programs]. We, on our part, remained cooperative and agreed to enter into negotiations over a one-year economic program to be implemented under supervision. The IMF's representative used to visit Khartoum every three months to report on the progress of the program. We showed commitment and all sides were happy with the way we fulfilled our commitments under the program, with the exception of the United States. The United States alone continued to object to the performance of the economic program in Sudan. But its opposition could not stop the submission of the [favorable] report nor the program.

We, on our part, continued to pay the arrears on our debts, so much so that we repaid $52 million last year. This state of affairs continued until last May. The [IMF] mission came, drew up its preliminary report, and gave us a copy of it in which it approved [the progress of] the program. However, this time, the United States interfered with a view to totally changing the report and replacing it by another report, and instead of the report being distributed three weeks before, it was distributed only three days before.

Thus, the operation has turned into a political one. We are convinced that even if we enter in a new economic program with the IMF, we will continue to be depleted and what little we have will be wrested from us, without us benefiting from the program of "cumulative [credit] withdrawal" rights.

The United States is trying to isolate us and prevent us from getting anything. Yet, despite all that, we are still living, we will fight and win, we will continue to implement our development projects, we will raise the level of the Rosieres Dam and exploit the Nile water for achieving food security.

Parliament Approves Decree on State Organization

EA0908102795 Khartoum SUNA in French 1600 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 8 Aug (SUNA) — The Transitional National Assembly [TNA] — the Sudanese parliament — presided over by its president, Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, in Khartoum yesterday approved of the general characteristics of the Twelfth Constitutional Decree, which sets out relationships in the 1995 Federal System in the light of the report by the Federal Government Commission in parliament.

The decree, by President of the Republic General 'Umar al-Bashir, consists of six articles relating to the organization of the states, the distribution of power, federal relations, the allocation of financial resources and wealth and other general considerations. Its aim is to fill the gaps that have resulted from the practical application of the system.

In addition, the decree deals with the distribution of financial resources on three federal local and state levels, and the creation of a national fund for the support of poor states. It should be noted that Sudan's Federal Government was established by the Fourth Constitutional Decree, promulgated by the National Salvation Revolution in 1991.

Western Sahara

Polisario Official 'Defected' to Morocco

LD0408212995 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Western Sahara — Morocco has reportedly decided to open 40 new identification centers for Saharans in order to speed up the registration of voters for the referendum scheduled for January of next year. These 40 new centers should be opened in several places in the Western Sahara and in other Moroccan towns. This news comes from REUTER news agency, quoting authorized sources in Laayoune.

It has also been learned this evening that a highly placed Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] official has apparently gone over to Morocco. He is the ambassador [as heard] to the Canaries, Wali Nashiq Lekabir. It appears that he defected on Wednesday night [2 August]. He had held several posts within the Saharan movement, including that of political commissar. He also represented the Polisario in Oran in Algeria. This news is also reported by REUTER this evening.

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Kuwait

Minister on Security Delegation Visit to Iran

LD0908085895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 8 Aug (KUNA) — Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah said today: "A security delegation from the Interior Ministry recently visited the Islamic Republic of Iran to discuss issues related to signing a protocol between the State of Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Shaykh 'Ali stressed, in a statement to reporters after today's ordinary session of the National Assembly, that the Kuwaiti and Iranian Foreign Ministries are still examining this protocol. Its importance lies in the consolidation of cooperation at the security level between the two countries, he stated.

The interior minister expressed optimism about the discussions that the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry will have with the Iranian Foreign Ministry. He said that one of the most important points is "to discuss the issue of stopping and preventing, if possible, the entry of Iranian infiltrators from the sea; and, more important, the two sides will tackle the issue of drug smuggling." [passage omitted]

Minister Sees Resolution of Border Dispute With Saudis

LD0808174795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 8 Aug (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said today that a meeting between representatives of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia would be held next month to complete discussion of specific points regarding the demarcation of the border between the two countries. In a statement to journalists following the ordinary session of the National Assembly, Shaykh Sabah stressed "that there were no problems or obstacles hindering the Kuwaiti-Saudi border talks." He added that "the depth of the fraternal ties between the two fraternal countries means matters are as if they were finished." He expressed hope that the border between the two countries would be demarcated saying: "I hope that, as the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said, when we go to the Muscat Summit the border disputes between the Gulf countries will have been totally eliminated." [passage omitted]

On the other hand, Shaykh Sabah referred to the recent visit to Kuwait by the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev saying: "I have said in the past that we appreciate the efforts and interest of Russia in the case of the prisoners." He pointed out that Russia has said that it has a specialized committee to follow up this issue, adding that this interest by the Russian side was not linked to any pre-condition." In reply to a question regarding the insistence of some Arab capitals on backing the Iraqi regime, Shaykh Sabah said: "I do not wish to comment on this issue. But I would like to express thanks to each state which remembered that dreadful day — the anniversary of the treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, whether in its press or in other media."

Official Calls For Islamic Development Bank

LD0808145695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1232 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 7 Aug — Ahmad Bazi' al-Yasin, former chairman of the board of the Kuwaiti Finance House and now head of the house's Authority of Fatwa and Religious Supervision, has called for the establishment of a Kuwaiti development bank to which Islamic financial institutions in Kuwait would contribute.

Al-Yasin said, in a statement to KUNA, that the development bank's investments would be medium- and long-term to meet the purpose for which these institutions were set up.

He added that there is a pressing need for establishing a Kuwaiti development bank which would finance major projects in the areas of construction, agriculture, and industry locally, regionally, and internationally.

He stated that after Islamic banks have achieved good successes and tangible results in the world, it is now time to move to the next stage. This next stage is establishment of a development bank where medium- and long-term investments make up 70 percent and short-term investments, 30 percent.

He said that it is not possible for such a bank to be established by individuals or individual institutions with short-term investments. Banks with large financial capabilities which can contribute in long- and medium-term investments are most suited to establish such a bank.

Al-Yasin called upon Islamic banks and financial institutions to study this subject seriously so as to make it the second step in the implementation of religious methodology of transactions after the success of the first step, namely Islamic banks.

He said, in reply to a question on the absence of cooperative insurance in Kuwait despite its existence in

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some Islamic and Gulf states, that "the time is favorable for establishing a company for this purpose or buying an existing company and amending its statutes to make it compatible with Islamic Shari'ah."

Bill Proposes Amendment to Law on Publishing

LD0708194595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 7 Aug — The National Assembly Committee on Education, Culture, and Guidance finished looking into a bill put forward by some deputies calling for increasing the penalties of the law on printing and publishing of 1961. A report on this bill is to be submitted to the assembly next week.

The proposal, which the committee approved during its meeting today, calls for adding to Article 23 of the law on printing and publishing a paragraph which punishes the chief editor and the author of an article with imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years or a fine not exceeding 3,000 Kuwaiti dinars or both if he published in the newspaper anything prohibited by this provision in that law.

The same article also notes that in the event of repeating the breach of the law the penalty would be imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding 6,000 Kuwaiti dinars or both. The court would decide whether to suspend the newspaper for a period not exceeding three years and the court could cancel the license.

Article 28 of the proposed bill also stresses: "The chief editor and author of the article will be fined a sum not exceeding 3,000 Kuwaiti dinars if he publishes in the newspaper anything which is prohibited by Articles 24 and 25 of that law." [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

CDLR Press Release Views Cabinet Reshuffle

MS0808103995 London CDLR Monitor in English 5 Aug 95

[Press release of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR) — received via Internet 8 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

PRESS RELEASE — Cabinet Reshuffle

The recent Saudi cabinet reshuffle left quite a few people without jobs, some were moved from position to position and there were some new recruits to the ministries. In fact, it would be safe to say that almost everyone except, of course, the royals, was touched by this attempt to prove something. The "FINANCIAL TIMES" [FT] (3/8/1995) in one of its articles on page 3 said, "Seven ministers were replaced in a surprise announcement.....". In the second Saudi oriented report, Michael Field said, "To most Saudis and the outside world, they have come as a surprise — though the militant Islamist Saudi opposition, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, which operates out of London, has known for some days that changes were in prospect." What a scoop that would have been for the western press, the FT in particular, if they had listened and acted! be prepared next time!

The prominent members of the family who hold the top portfolios, are as follows, without change; Abdullah — first deputy premier and Head of the National Guard, Sultan second deputy premier and Defence Minister, Nayf — Interior, Saud Al-Faysal - Foreign and lastly Mit'ib — Public Works and Housing. From this we can conclude that the family's feuding and struggling is not, as yet, settled.

Several junior ministers were confirmed last week and now, from the latest official announcement we can see there is a big change, numerically. There is no real change in policy, concept or attitude. The country is still labouring under the tribal and feudal mentality of al Sa'ud. There are no changes in the government's policy or its views of state or society and the only salient reorganisation is one of administration.

It is interesting to note that all the ministers, with the exception of the princes, have higher degrees some from the most prestigious of universities. All the appointees are of the Uriah Heap mentality, bowing and scraping before their earthly gods. To upgrade a BBC TV comedy programme they are of the Yes, Prime Minister (your royal highness) mould. Some of these new ministers are, however, and could do something for the country but how long will any initiative last under the yolk of the self centred al Sa'uds?

What is the al Sa'ud equivalent of a 'handbagging'? Hisham Nazir found out! The new oil minister is Engineer Ali Ibrahim Al-Nu'aymi. He joined Aramco at the age of 14 and that was 46 years ago. It would seem probable that this was an American government suggestion. Nu'aymi is very pro-America, even to the extent that he sees them as his legitimate lords. The move will certainly please America but as there is no change in policy it would appear to be a cosmetic change only.

Some senior American State department officials describe him as a brilliant and energetic oil technocrat and the FT says that he is seen "by oilmen and diplomats as a tested and level headed technocrat who will

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consolidate the achievements of Mr. Nazir". This is to be doubted and the more doubtful is Nu'aymi's ability to be able to do anything in the ministry off his own bat. Nu'aymi has a business background and is possibly well versed in the American way. At any rate we can be sure of one thing and that is the minister will be on one island and his staff on another without a linking arm. They will soon be at loggerheads as he has a businessman's mentality and they are all classical civil servants. The damning blow, of course, is that the ministry itself is doing nothing anyway, king Fahd holding all oil policy strings in his hands. Even worse, junior minister Abd al-'Aziz bin Salman, backed by his powerful father prince Salman bin Abd al-'Aziz, will be more than a nuisance!

Hisham Nazyr is out but was appointed to the Office of Royal Affairs the next day. How much grovelling and kow-towing was used to get this nominal position. It is surely only a consolation prize for a person who must have been begging for the full 24 hours. The poor man's knees must have been worn to the bone to get this belated 'also ran' wooden spoon. How low must a 'man' go to make his tongue black!

The complete removal of Aba-al-Khayl from the ministry of Finance was, perhaps, a shock for him the more in as much as there was nothing waiting for him either. He was regarded as one of the most powerful men, comparable to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's role and more. A number of essential government offices were under his wing, he was responsible not only for finance, treasury and economics, but also for the customs, printing presses, national statistics office and had total banking control as the supreme boss of SAMA [Saudi Monetary Agency]. He has been a signatory on all currency notes for a good few decades.

Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl's replacement is Suleyman Al-Sulaym who got his PhD from the John Hopkin's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington DC. He has come from the Ministry of Commerce which is really an extremely irrelevant ministry. He dealt with such things as price control, commercial registration and the registration of new companies. This weak personality has been moved to such an influential and important portfolio for what reason?! It is clear that the king wants to retain secrecy of financial affairs and by appointing this colourless, totally controllable person as minister has got his desire.

The people in the ministry are not used to having to manage by themselves, rather they are used to the dictatorship of Aba-al-Khayl and are probably incapable of working under their own impetus. Take as an example of this dictatorial management Aba-al-Khayl's being the only one who possessed a fax machine. Not even the deputy ministers were given immediate access to incoming faxes!! Aba-al- Khayl read and dealt with them all. He was known as a fleshy computer. To give an example of this man's mental ability it is said that he was able, at a conference of 30 — 40 people, unknown to him at the beginning, to memorise all their names and faces before the end. This retentive quality was not a short lived thing either, he could recall those same people 2 or 3 years later. Unfortunately he was also known as Mr. 1 per cent, a nickname derived from the one percent he pocketed from every interest penny earned on deposits belonging to the Saudi state, with royal permission, of course! The percentage of the king being undisclosed!! He is known as being a very evil and corrupt man.

It would appear that the king has got himself a personal private financial secretary. Someone who will be obedient and print money when told, print and sign cheques and buy and sell anything that he is ordered, if present at all in office. In his junior civil service time, at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, he excelled in absenteeism, but got regularly promoted due to magic and a formidable protector, Salman bin Abd-al-'Aziz.

Usamah Ja'afr al-Faqih has been given the portfolio of minister of Commerce. He came to this position from the Minister of Finance via the Islamic Development Bank. It was a loss for the Bank when he was appointed to it, and as we have stated earlier the ministry of Commerce is neither here nor there. He will be responsible for opening new shops, companies' registration and the consumer protection unit. Congratulation to the Islamic Development Bank for this relief!

'Ali al-Sha'ir has been replaced as the Minister of Information by Dr. Fu'ad Farisi who is a PhD from Dukes. He is a well qualified person who used to write articles and pieces for AL HAYAT and others. He was good at this and was probably more useful doing that than filling this post. It is well known that the king used to telephone 'Ali al-Sha'ir 4 or 5 times, at least, daily. Farsi is going to need more than his PhD as a defence. The outgoing minister, known to Saudis as the Minister of 'Denials', has been appointed advisor to the royal office as a royal advisor.

The new Minister of Health is Dr. usamah Shubukshi, sometime Dean of Medicine at King Abd-al-'Aziz University in Jeddah and its late president. He comes with no good credentials and the fact that he was a VIP at Abd-al-'Aziz are grounds to believe that he will not be able to do anything. We have been unable to locate the institute from which he received his "Fachartzt". CIA officials are of the opinion that Shubukshi is the

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right man to take over the position, my be because he is well known to do his utmost to please the 'royals', or is it something else....?

There is an interesting local London connection with the Ministry of Health. The Saudi Ambassador, Ghazi al-Guseybi met his downfall there when, as minister, he tried to cut back on the royal privileges in King Faysal Specialist Hospital, Cave Shubukshi!!

'Abdullah bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Mua'mmar has been assigned as the Minister of Agriculture, possibly to appease the old influential Najdi families, filling a position that has been vacant for months. He has come from the Majlis al-Shurah. The previous minister was sacked over a scandal concerning subsidies of barley and wheat. We wish this 'unknown' all success under Fahd's leadership!!

There is a non-surprising surprise. 'Ali Talal al-Juhani has been given the portfolio of the Ministry of PTT [Post and Telecommunications]. It is not surprising because he has been writing in the media since the 70s, trying to sell himself. His brother is a General with the Ministry of Defence where he heads the Technical Development and Research Section, a protege of Sultan. al-Juhani is sometimes provocative and can be critical of Saudi standards. He comes from the Banking Committee stable. This is a judicial body which has a bland name for a very powerful tribunal which settles banking disputes usually outside and against Shari'ah law. al-Juhani has a judicial background and what is surprising is the fact that he has been elevated to a technical ministry. His predecessor, 'Alawi Darwish Kayyal has not been mentioned at all. The fact is he has just fallen in a kickback scandal and lawsuits connected to the Madani Inheritance. He, never the less, will most likely get away unpunished, as he has too much information and holds documents that are too sensitive for al Sa'ud, kept abroad in safe custody. The new Minister has a very sarcastic, bitter way with him. In America he told people: "call me Jonny", instead of Johani. He was and is not proud of his tribal descent and roots and was always accommodating to his American friends in University.

The ex vice-president of King Sa'ud University, Dr Muhammad Jarallah who was in charge of the university branchs has been made the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The out going minister Dr. Muhammad bin Abd-al-'Aziz al al-Shaykh stays as a minister of State and a member of the Cabinet, change for change's sake! The symbolic union of al Sa'ud and al al-Shaykh must be kept up for appearances sake. Dr. Muhammad bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-al-Shaykh is a prime example of how an otherwise brilliant man can be annihilated under Fahd's 'wise' and 'blessed' leadership.

The greatest change of note is the replacement of al-Khuwaytir with Muhammad Ahmad Ar-Rasheed. al-Khuwaytir has been called the 'living mummy' of the Cabinet but it is probably more correct to call him the dead mummy. Ar-Rasheed is most definitely more qualified, articulate and independent. His is the antithesis of al- Khuwaytir who is the ultimate classical bureaucrat a la Max Weber. Ar-Rasheed has the necessary leadership qualities and the courage to discuss and argue points. It was he who argued the case for the 'Memorandum of Advice' and later CDLR with prince Salman at its beginnings. He is, most definitely, the most promising character in the group. God may protect him from the 'wise' king!

al-Khuwaytir is now a minister without portfolio which proves the king cannot do without him. He is the HMV [expansion unknown] of al Sa'ud. He can go to a Head of State and relay a message accurately and in detail. He will return with an equally, correctly memorised message, all in absolute secrecy and confidence. This is his main skill. A great pity, he is at the same time a most upright and clean living character which is unfortunately negated by his inefficiency and complicating most matters. It is said of him that not one penny went to his pocket unjustified, but at the same time there is a saying among Saudis: — "Don't be a Khuwaytir" which is commonly used to tell someone not to complicate matters beyond any hope for any solution.

We wish all success to Musa'id Muhammad al-Sinani. He has taken over the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, a pretty functionless job. An unknown without and therefore without evaluation.

Muhammad 'Ali al-Fayz who is originally from the bankrupt GOSI (General Organisation of Social Insurance), passing but the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, is now the head of the Public Service Bureau. GOSI was bankrupted by the plundering of al Sa'ud, who 'borrowed' its coffers empty. No change here.

The old Minister for Transport and Roads, Mansuri was old and sick and has been replaced by his deputy Dr. Nasir al-Sallum. In general this is a reasonable ministry, certainly the best you could expect under al Sa'ud.

Dr. Hashim Abdullah Yamany replaces the personality-free zone, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil in the Ministry of Electricity and Industry. Yamany is a very well qualified and brilliant physicist of Yemeni origin. Unfortunately he will be unable to confront the al Sa'ud Mafia. We forecast, either a complete demoralisation of this brilliant man, or a short reign, so watch this space!

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Mutlib al-Naffisah has been left in his position as head of the branch of experts of the Ministry Council Office, adding a cabinet seat. It was his job to oversee the writing of laws and regulations. He is a colourless, non brilliant entity and his preferment is not surprising.

The remaining three new boys are 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Mani', Madani 'Ulaqi and Musa'id al-'Eiban, a crony and adjutant of 'Abd-al-'Aziz bin Salman. We wish them all the best in their new venture.

From our knowledge of the way things go in the Kingdom it is clear that all these new appointments show the influence of the Sudairi Seven, Abdullah and the al Faysal wing beaten back badly.

What is the intention of al Sa'ud in bringing about this high numerical change? It is blatantly obvious that uppermost in their mind is their desire to impress the West. They also want to convince the man in the street that reform is on the cards. They want to give the impression that they are fully in charge They are saying: "We are able, we are powerful. Our past inactivity is a 'wise' policy, never inability or indecisiveness; Every one has to obey and shut up!!"

They have shown this by dropping the powerful Aba-al-Khayl. In the 70s it was popular to talk about and discuss the Chinese 'gang of four', which tried to change policy behind the scenes, led by the wife of Mao. The joke in Saudi Arabia was that: We are modern and have also our 'gang of four'; Question: But who is the wife of Mao? Answer: Abal-Khail, stupid, who else!

If we look at further press quotes to see what the feeling is we will see that, in fact, not much hope is held out for the long promised reforms. The editor in chief of the Middle East Economic Digest has suggested that the changes indicate that Saudi Arabia is "trying to update and make it more like a modern government, with cabinet ministers not being appointed for life". Tell that to Abdullah, Sultan, Nayf, Sa'ud al Faysal and Mit'ib and see how long they laugh. There is little difference between mans' laughter and manslaughter!

The FT says that Saudis "have become cynical about the sheer immobility of their government" and a little later talking about an ex minister, it says, "But, from the point of view of the king, he was a sound minister because he did as he was told". I would like to suggest to the commentator who is reported by the GUARDIAN [British Newspaper] (tongue in cheek, I think) as saying, "The king is bringing fresh blood into the government and we hope the ministries will be more productive than they have been in the past". Yes, but remember the Saudi Chimera of the pig with wings!

Al Sa'uds motto is, after all, "We own all the land and everything on it!" London, Saturday 5 August 1995

CDLR Open Letter Urges Action in Bosnia-Herzegovina

MS0808115995 London CDLR Monitor in English 8 Aug 95

[Petition to Muslim Governments by the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR) — received via Internet 8 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt]

PETITION TO MUSLIM GOVERNMENTS — (Please join!)

This open letter (enclosed) will be sent to government officials and the media in MUSLIM STATES to request IMMEDIATE ACTION in BOSNIA, including the unilateral dispatching of a powerful multi-national force in addition to ample arms.

Please distribute this petition throughout the Internet,

in mosques, churches, schools, etc.

Please join this petition using the enclosed form to send your full name, postal address, and telephone number to the automated processing program at: payam-vot@vlsi2.vlsi.uwaterloo.ca [form omitted]

The addresses and phones will not be published in the Internet.

Only the volunteers organizing this effort and the final recipients will have access to them.

If you are sending your reply by email, please be advised of the following:

1) Please enter the required information in each entry without changing the headings or the location of the symbol "=".

2) Each entry must fit in one line. If an entry takes more than one line, please abbreviate it.

3) In each email, only one person can be identified. Extra entries will not be read. If you have collected signatures from others, please send each of them in a separate email to payam- vot@vlsi2.vlsi.uwaterloo.ca or collect them all in one file and send them to behnam@argo.rice.edu. If you prefer to send the signatures by the post, you may send all in a single letter to the following address: Behnam Sadeghi ECE, MS 366 Rice University Houston, TX 77251-1892, USA

4) Your email address will be extracted automatically from your reply. Please don't include it in the form. The field "address" refers to your postal address.

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5) All the replies collected for this petition will be composed in a single letter, and will be sent to the recipients. Please don't sign it more than once.

PETITION TO MUSLIM GOVERNMENTS

August 1995

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful Dear (Name of Official). We, the undersigned, are addressing this open letter to you as the (representative or leader) of (the name of the country) to request urgent action on a matter that is of grave and immediate concern to all humanity, especially to the Muslim community worldwide: the annihilation of Bosnia.

The United Nations and Western states have served as accessaries to genocide by disarming Muslims in the so-called safe havens, by enforcing an arms embargo against them, thus preventing them from self-defense against an advanced European army, and by permitting Serbian forces to take over Muslim enclaves with impunity. As a consequence of their policies, Muslims are murdered, raped, and sent to concentration camps. This outrage has been going on for too long.

What has been more regrettable than the policies of Western states is the inaction and seeming indifference of Muslim governments in the past several years. Fine words and empty rhetoric we have heard much, but nothing of substance has been accomplished. It is time to put an end to the ongoing horrors, to secure the territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to protect its population from murder and rape, and to restore the credibility of Muslim governments.

We express our support for the current consultations among the member states of the Oragnization of the Islamic Conference. We request: 1) That a large and powerful multi-national force be rapidly dispatched to Bosnia and to stay there until the territorial integrity of that nation is restored,

2) That Bosnians be abundantly provided with the arms they need to protect their lives and honor,

3) And that these actions be taken without delay, and without any consultation with or regard for the United Nations.

If your government undertakes these actions, it will have restored the confidence and gratitude of Muslims and peace-loving people worldwide. If it fails to take these steps, it will be accountable to God and to the Muslim Ummah. END OF THE LETTER. Note: The opening paragraph in the petition may be slightly altered depending on who the recipient is (official or newspaper). [repetitive form omitted]

TV To Screen Special Program To Aid Bosnia

LD0808123995 Riyadh SPA in English 1956 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Aug 7, SPA — Saudi television officials held a series of meetings under the chairmanship of Dr 'Ali Bin-Mohammad al-Naji, assistant deputy minister of information for television affairs, in order to effectively bring about the charity campaign for Bosnian Muslims.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd has directed the Saudi television to carry out the campaign in solidarity with the Bosnian people.

A 12-hour open programme from 1 pm to 1 am will be aired next Friday as part of the programme to raise donations for the Bosnian Moslems.

A number of officials at the higher authority for collecting donations for Bosnian Moslems will be invited in addition to analysts and editors-in-chief of local newspapers to highlight the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and sufferings being experienced by Bosnian Moslems due to Serb atrocities.

United Arab Emirates

Official on President's Talks With Syrian Counterpart

JN0908064795 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 9 Aug (WAKH)— Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has stated that during their talks last night, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al-Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, made a comprehensive assessment of the current Arab situation, the developments of the peace process, and the common endeavor to clear the Arab atmosphere, so the Arab nation can preserve its security and enhance its capabilities in order to serve its fateful issues.

In a statement to the Emirates News Agency following the meeting between President al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Zayid, Shaykh Hamdan added that the two presidents also reviewed their countries' positions on a number of Arab, Islamic, and international issues.

He continued: His Highness Shaykh Zayid stressed that the UAE supports all that closes the Arab ranks and that he looks forward to a new phase in which the Arab nation will circumvent its problems and differences through serious and effective action.

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In his statement, Shaykh Hamdan said the meeting also addressed the fraternal relations between the UAE and Syria and ways to bolster them in various fields.

Yemen

Joint Yemeni-Saudi Committee Issues Final Communique

JN0808183095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Joint Yemeni-Saudi Military Committee concluded the final meeting of its fourth round of talks this morning under the cochairmanship of Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, chief of the General Staff; and Staff General Muhammad Bin-Salih al-Hammad, chief of the Saudi General Staff. During this meeting, the committee discussed several issues listed on its agenda.

At the end of the meeting, the two chiefs of staff signed the minutes of the fourth round of talks listed on the agenda. The Joint Yemeni-Saudi Military Committee then issued the following final communique:

The Joint Yemeni-Saudi Military Committee held the fourth round of its talks in Sanaa from 11 Rabi' al-Awwal 1416 Hegira to 12 Rabi' al-Awwal 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 7 August 1995 to 8 August 1995.

During this round's meetings, the conferees signed the joint minutes, which stipulate complete agreement between the two sides on the bases of the committee's work and duties, and on the concepts of executive procedures the two sides will present within 30 days from the date of the signing of these minutes so that they can be discussed during the fifth round of talks scheduled to be held in Riyadh.

The two sides highly valued the recent summit in Jeddah between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques—a meeting which reflected positively on the results that have so far been achieved.

The Yemeni side was headed by Staff Brig. Gen. 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, chief of the General Staff; and the Saudi side was headed by Staff Gen. Muhammad Bin-Salih al-Hammad, chief of the fraternal Saudi General Staff.

Brother Staff Brig. Gen., chief of the General Staff, gave a luncheon banquet in honor of Staff Gen. Muhammad Bin-Salih al- Hammad, chief of the fraternal Saudi General Staff; the members of the Saudi side in the committee; and Saudi Ambassador to Yemen 'Ali Muhammad al-Qusaybi.

The Saudi military side in the Joint Yemeni-Saudi Military Committee, headed by Staff Gen. Muhammad Bin-Salih al-Hammad, chief of the fraternal Saudi General Staff, left for home today. It was seen off at Sanaa International Airport by brother Brig. Gen. 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, chief of the General Staff; the members of the Yemeni side in the Military Committee; and Saudi Ambassador in Sanaa 'Ali Muhammad al-Qusaybi.

YRG Official on Islamic Movement, Stand on Peace

NC0808190395 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Aug 95 p 12

[Interview with Muhammad al-Yadumi, secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, by Hasan al-'Udayni in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-'Udayni] What forces form the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]?

[Al-Yadumi] The YRG is a political grouping that has been active in Yemen ever since political pluralism was allowed after unification. Before unification it was active through the General People's Congress [GPC]. Before unification all the political forces in all the northern and western provinces were active within the GPC. The Islamic Movement was one of these forces. When unity was established and overt political action was allowed, the Islamic Movement assumed the name YRG.

[Al-'Udayni] Some people do not expect the YRG to last due to the lack of harmony between the groups that form it.

[Al-Yadumi] With due respect to all who say so, this is mere drivel. The YRG is a harmonious organization with its own bylaws, political program, views, leadership, and bases. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Udayni] What is the status of the Afghan mujahidin? Has the YRG succeeded in absorbing and taming them within its framework as a political organization and party?

[Al-Yadumi] I do not believe that this name exists. There are no such titles in Yemeni society. They were young men who went to help their brothers in Afghanistan and returned to their homeland after the demise of communist imperialism. They were not treated like many other Muslim youths were treated in many Arab and Islamic countries.

[Al-'Udayni] Can it be said that the YRG is a Yemeni extension of the international organization of the Muslim Brotherhood?

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[Al-Yadumi] The YRG is a Yemeni organization that originated from this soil and this people. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Udayni] Is the Islamic movement's slogan of "Islam is the solution" a way of running away from real problems?

[Al-Yadumi] Never. Islam is the solution; that no one denies. But what is this solution? How could such solutions be applied to society? This is a different matter. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Udayni] The YRG's stand on Israel and normalization is cautious and unclear. Why?

[Al-Yadumi] Normalization with Israel has not been raised as an official issue within the ranks of the coalition. The YRG view is that there can be no peace if our people are not given back their rights. I do not think anyone will be opposed to a peace that gives the Palestinian people their rights.

[Al-'Udayni] Peace like in the Gaza-Jericho formula?

[Al-Yadumi] We are convinced that there will be no peace if the Palestinian people do not get their rights.

[Al-'Udayni] Why has the YRG not joined the national committee to resist normalization even though it was invited to join?

[Al-Yadumi] I do not recall the YRG being invited to join this committee. The YRG is the party or organization that has the clearest concept of this issue. Unfortunately, many parties and forces that had a pan-Arab view collapsed before the normalization process in many Arab and Islamic countries. The Yemeni parties with foreign roots rejected normalization at the beginning, but now we see them down on their knees. Our stand on the Jews, the Zionist invasion, and the Palestinian issue is a principled one known to those far and near.

[Al-'Udayni] When will you turn it into a mass movement?

[Al-Yadumi] No one in Yemen favors normalization with the Jews. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Relations Established With Belarus

JN0808202295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Officials from the Republic of Yemen and the Republic of Belarus signed a protocol in Moscow today establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. It was signed for our country by our Ambassador to Belarus 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Buzayri and for the Republic of Belarus by Ambassador (Viktor Cherniko).

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Regime Forces From South Reportedly Reinforce Karkuk

NC0808174795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam Husayn's regime has moved forces from south Iraq to the Karkuk areas. Iraqi opposition sources say that the regime has reinforced Karkuk Air Base and that this is a sign of possible military action by the regime against Iraqi Kurdistan.

The sources call on the two main Iraqi Kurdish parties [Kurdistan Democratic Party and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] to end their infighting quickly to deprive the Saddam regime of any advantage. They noted that this regime could exploit this infighting to launch a new military action.

Minister, Army Chief Inspect Positions in North

JN0608171795 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The defense minister of the tyrant, Hashim Ahmad Sultan, and the Chief of Staff 'Abd-al-Wahid Shannan Al Rubat, [name as heard] have paid inspection visits to the tyrant's forces in Mosul, Karkuk, and Kifri since 22 June. Our sources in the north say that the inspections covered advanced positions close to the liberated Kurdistan areas.

Meanwhile, the same source confirmed additional concentrations of the regime forces have been dispatched for a possible attack on the Kurds in the north by the reckless Baghdad ruler. Sources say that Turkish Government circles conveyed secret information to the tyrant's government on a possible withdrawal of the Western alliance planes from the Incerlik base in southern Turkey where it has been stationed for years under the pretext of providing protection for Iraqi Kurds.

Barzani Party Accuses PUK of Cease-Fire Violations

JN0508202995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1845 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the invitation of the U.S. mediators, and to pave the way for a meeting between the political bureaus of the party [Kurdistan Democratic Party] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], a cease-fire was supposed to take effect on Friday, 4 August 1995 at 2400 [Iraqi time 2000 GMT], which would be after normal working hours in the United States. The party and the KDP were supposed to halt all troop concentrations and attacks on all axes on the set date. The party and the PUK had said they would respect this in the presence of the U.S. party.

On this basis, the two sides were supposed to stop all troop concentrations and attacks. However, the Jalalis [Jalal Talabani's forces] only 3 hours after the set date, at 0300 on 5 August, went back on their promise and carried out an all-out attack on (Kabsh Halabafa) on the (Sting) axis. However, the peshmerga of Kurdistan, the heroes of the party and Barzani, confronted them, repulsing the Jalalis attack, forcing them to flee, leaving behind their dead and wounded.

At 0630, the defeated Jalalis launched another attack on our heroic peshmerga's defensive positions in (Kabsh Halabafa). They once again were defeated and fled back to their positions in humiliation.

Citizens and mediators: This is the policy, behavior, and ethics of Jalal and the Jalalis leaders. They never keep their promises. They exploit cease-fires to attack our peshmerga's defensive positions in spite of their recurrent defeats. They also shed crocodile tears in front of the mediators, and show that they respond to peace calls and that they are enthusiastic about peace.

Continued Barzani-Talabani Fighting in Reported

JN0808153895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—Reports from Irbil say that fighting between the Jalalis [Jalal Talabani's men] and Barzanis [Mas'ud Barzani's men] with all types of weapons is continuing in the Rawandoz area. The INA reporter in Irbil says that Mas'ud Barzani's group continues to shell the Rawandoz district with artillery and rocket launchers. Clashes spread to include Handran and Cork [name as transliterated] mountains. Large numbers from both sides were killed or wounded in the exchange of fire, and many of the injured were forced to flee the area.

The INA correspondent who managed to visit the sector two days ago, said Rawandoz has turned into ruins. He added that the Jalalis have suffered great losses, particularly among their commanders.

Hospitals in Irbil can no longer admit any more people due to a shortage of medicine and medical equipment. Due to the acute shortage of blood, the Jalalis forced young men to donate blood.

Reports from al-Sulaymaniyah say the Jalalis have bombed Barzani positions in the Qainaja village near Sayyid Sadiq, and Kurdi Nazi [name as transliterated] village, inflicting losses on the Barzanis.

The Jalalis continue to prevent al-Sulaymaniyah young men who fled or failed to perform the military service from going to Karkuk recruitment departments to benefit

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from the general amnesty. Despite this, more than 2,200 young men from al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate have managed to report to these departments.

Families Said Deported

JN0808201995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from al-Sulaymaniyah indicate that the Jalalis [followers of Jalal Talabani] are deporting families whose allegiance they suspect outside al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate after seizing their money.

The Iraqi News Agency's private correspondent reported that a number of families from the regions of (Bajdar) and (Batwin) have arrived at the regions of Harir, Qasri, and Shaqlawah, which are controlled by [Mas'ud] Barzani followers. The reporter added that the Jalalis asked some doctors in al-Sulaymaniyah to leave the city because they doubt their allegiance.

Armed clashes are still continuing between the two sides on the axes of Shaqlawah and Rawandoz.

Kurdish 'Prime Minister' Orders Army POW's Released

NC0708173095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kurdistan Prime Minister Kusrat Rasul 'Ali issued a decree yesterday releasing all the Iraqi Army officers who were taken prisoner by the Kurdistan peshmerga forces during the defensive battles of March. The decision was made at the end of a meeting chaired by the prime minister and attended by a number of Kurdistan general staff command officers and the relevant departments in the Kurdistan Government.

Iraqi, Kurdish Oppositionists Continue Polemics

MM0808150995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Reports by Zuhayr Qusaybati and Kamran Qurrah Daghi in London]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] (led by Mas'ud Barzani) has strongly attacked the former chief of Iraqi Military Intelligence, Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, and accused him of playing a "suspect role" in the Iraqi opposition and of having played a role in the "annihilation of Kurds" in the 1980s. The KDP denied that its forces had stormed the house of Major General Hasan al-Naqib in the Salah al-Din area in northern Iraq. It also refuted "allegations" by al-Samarra'i that Barzani had hatched a plot to assassinate him before al-Samarra'i moved to Damascus.

Al-Samarra'i renewed his fierce attacks on the Kurdish leader, saying that his movement had always been an insurgent one which considered conflict to be chauvinistic. In a statement to AL-HAYAH, al-Samarra'i said that "the future democratic government in Iraq will not deal with Barzani."

On the other hand, a KDP spokesman has told AL-HAYAH that "some Iraqi opposition quarters in Damascus have been spreading strange reports about attacks by the KDP's forces on the house of Major General Hasan al-Naqib at Salah al-Din (northern Iraq) and have been trying to fabricate accusations against the party." He expressed his regret that "some people, who were either considered to belong to the opposition or who attribute themselves to it, have allowed themselves to stoop to this level of irresponsible methods of dealing that are far from the truth."

He denied that clashes had taken place at Salah al-Din or that al-Naqib's house had been stormed or that "any acts of aggression had been committed against private property."

Referring to al-Naqib's accusation that a KDP force had tried to assassinate Lieutenant General Mahdi 'Abdallah, who works with him in the "Independent Iraqi Committee," and of seizing a car belonging to al-Samarra'i, the spokesman for Barzani's party said: "When al- Samarra'i left Salah al-Din, he left a private car with one of his relatives, namely Mushtaq al-Samarra'i, in whose name the car was registered. After a while, Mushtaq left the car with representatives of the 'Independent Iraqi Committee' for safe keeping so that he could take it back later. It seems that representatives of the aforementioned committee somehow handed over the car to one of the citizens of the region. Mushtaq tried without success to get the car back from the committee. So the owner of the car raised a case at the Shaqlawah Court demanding his right [to the car]. Thereupon, the court summoned Lt. Gen. Mahdi al-'Ubaydi, the committee's representative, to reply to the complaint. But he declined to appear before it. So the court referred the case to the Salah al-Din police authorities to ensure Mahdi's presence before it. The police authorities finally succeeded in persuading him to come to the police station." He added that "when he contacted the officials of the party [the KDP] after about an hour to find out what was happening,, the party intervened and secured his release, hoping that the problem would be resolved through an out of court settlement by the two parties to the problem."

The spokesman described the accusations made by al-Samarra'i against the KDP leadership, whom he accused of collaboration with Baghdad to harass the opposition,

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as "a proof of the frustration of al-Samarra'i and the exposition of his role in the field of the opposition political action." He added that the "KDP does not need a testimony of patriotism from the former chief of Iraqi military intelligence, particularly as we know that he was one of the perpetrators of the annihilation campaign waged against the Kurdish people during the al-Anfal operations between 1988 and 1989, as he was then chief of intelligence in northern Iraq."

The KDP spokesman added that "al-Samarra'i has been playing a suspect role in the opposition," which he joined after taking refuge in northern Iraq in November 1994, and that "he stirred up a great deal of dust and feuds among the various parties to the opposition, a fact which casts doubt on his actions." The spokesman went on to say that the former chief of Iraqi military intelligence had no quarrel with Barzani prior to his departure to Damascus and that "he seems to have joined an oppressive campaign against the Iraqi National Congress [INC]" whose Presidential Council includes Barzani, al-Naqib, and Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum.

The spokesman admitted that Barzani alone now remains on the council, after Bahr-al-'Ulum had frozen his membership and after al- Naqib had taken a similar step after three days and later deemed the INC to be finished."

The spokesman expressed his hope that "no regional quarters were behind the campaign against the INC," stressing that the convocation of a meeting of the INC national assembly was "the legitimate framework for dealing with all organizational and political matters," and this would enable the INC "to block up all gaps" in its performance.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, al-Samarra'i said that the talk about his role in the al-Anfal operation was a false claim, for the Al- Anfal operation was carried out by a political decision and the intelligence department had nothing to do with it. "I was assistant director of intelligence affairs in charge of the Iranian dossier as well as the dossier of the affairs of the Kurds in northern Iraq. Our duty was confined only to providing the leadership with information."

He strongly attacked Barzani, pointing out that "his movement had always been one of insurgency and never believed in any integral struggle against dictatorship, but considered the struggle to be a chauvinistic Iraqi struggle. The best proof of this can be seen in Mas'ud Barzani's participation in the attack on Iranian forces with a view to the occupation of the Hajji 'Imran area in 1983" during the war with Iran.

Al-Samarra'i reiterated that he was opposed to the al-Anfal operation because he does not support the "mass annihilation of the Kurds." However, he said, "if they look upon the conflict as being one between Kurds and the Baghdad government, then I am against this view. I support an integrated struggle against the regime and I believe in granting the brother Kurds their legitimate rights within an Iraqi unity." He added: "I challenge Barzani to declare clearly that he is against the regime of (President) Saddam Husayn and to make his actions compatible with his statement."

Asked what proof he had that Barzani had plotted the attempt on his life, al-Samarra'i repeated his statement that he had sent a message to Barzani and Jalal Talabani, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] secretary general, and Ahmad al-Jalabi, chairman of the INC Executive Council, in which he referred to that attempt which took place last April. He intimated the Americans later learned of the assassination attempt. He reiterated his charges that Barzani "had sent Muhammad Zarari" to carry out the attempt.

Asked about the timing of his disclosure of the news of the assassination attempt, why he waited about three months before doing so, and why he moved from northern Iraq to Damascus, al-Samarra'i replied: "At the beginning, we favored a wait-and-see policy. Then Barzani escalated his measures against me and the Arab opposition in the north, and we lost all hope about him working with us against the regime." Al-Samarra'i added that he had to leave northern Iraq and that "it became impossible for me to enter through the areas under the influence of Barzani, or through Iran, which never forgot that I was the [intelligence] officer in charge of Iranian affairs."

Al-Samarra'i affirmed that "the PUK, the INC, the Communists, and the Arab opposition in northern Iraq are aware that Barzani had reneged on his pledge after having approved of the 4 March uprising," by which al-Samarra'i was referring to confrontations with the Iraqi Army at the points of contact.

Concluding, al-Samarra'i said: "Let Barzani rest assured that we will frustrate all his actions against the Iraqi people and that the future democratic government in Iraq will not deal with him."

Meanwhile in London, Ahmad al-Jalabi affirmed that the INC "is still continuing with its activities in Iraqi Kurdistan," particularly at Salah al-Din, where the INC's Arab affiliates have been carrying out their work in complete freedom.

Replying to a question put by AL-HAYAH, al-Jalabi said that "the criticism being waged against the KDP

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(led by Mas'ud Barzani) by some Arab quarters in the Iraqi opposition is a matter which calls for regret because his party was a principal and founder member of the INC and has a long history of struggle against dictatorship."

It is recalled that two opposition leaders, namely, Hasan al- Naqib, member of the INC Presidential Council, and Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, have accused the KDP of collaboration with Baghdad and of hatching a plot to assassinate the latter.

Al-Jalabi went on to say: It hurts me to read statements made by some Arab Iraqi quarters against Mas'ud Barzani, who was the best supporter of these same parties for over two decades. One cannot overlook considerations of the long joint struggle against the dictatorial regime and the historic relations that bind Barzani to numerous sides in the opposition, just because of some temporal and transient considerations that have arisen in these hard times."

Speaking of the Kurdish situation, al-Jalabi said: "Patience and endurance are some of the characteristics of the struggler against the dictatorial regime of (President) Saddam Husayn. We cannot abandon the basis of the relations that bind us to the Kurdish sides in their ordeal."

He pointed out that the INC "is looking forward to the cessation of the fighting and prevalence of peace in Iraqi Kurdistan" and that he is "ready to play the role entrusted to him for achieving this end." He expressed his hope that the meeting scheduled to be held on 9 August between a KDP delegation and a PUK delegation would achieve positive results, thus paving the way for a political solution of the conflict between the two parties."

Opposition Leaders Exchange Accusations

MM0808112795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
6 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Reports by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus and AL-HAYAH bureau in London: "Al-Samarra'i Accuses al-Hakim of Racism and Bahr-al-'Ulum Condemns the Campaign Against Barzani"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former Iraqi chief of intelligence, has accused the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] of working in accordance with a "chauvinist and racist concept." He renewed his campaign against Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], accusing him again of being "an agent" of President Saddam Husayn's regime and also of "participating" with the Iranian forces in the "occupation" of the Hajj 'Imran area (on the Iraqi-Iranian border) in 1983.

In reply, SAIRI, which is based in Iran and is led by Baqir al- Hakim, said that al-Samarra'i was trying to instigate "fanaticism." SAIRI Spokesman Bayan Jabr has told AL-HAYAH that the fanaticism against Barzani was "harmful to the Iraqi opposition." He added: "It is not true that he (Barzani) is working for the Iraqi regime." He also said that "a person like al-Samarra'i, who came from within the regime and worked for its intelligence service, has no right to attack Barzani." He added that the "attitude" of the former chief of military intelligence "will burn him" in the opposition circles.

In another development, Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, who recently suspended his membership of the Presidential Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], has condemned the campaign against Barzani. He told AL-HAYAH in London: "There have been signs of unusual talk and personal attacks on brother Mas'ud Barzani. I believe that it is improper that such talk should target such a man who has played and is still playing a role in the interest of the Iraqi cause in general and the Kurdish cause in particular. We should not view matters superficially when people he has been good to attack and defame him. I am confident that the Kurdish leadership represented by brothers Barzani and (Jalal) Talabani are above such suspicions."

In Damascus, al-Samarra'i renewed his attacks on Barzani, maintaining that he tried to assassinate him. He showed AL-HAYAH a message addressed to him from Ahmad al-Jalabi, chairman of the UINC Executive Council, "warning me that a serious assassination plot was being hatched against me." The message, dated 14 April 1995, said that "there is reliable information about a serious plot to assassinate you, different from previous plots. I therefore urge you to be cautious and to be on your guard." A high-ranking UINC source in London told AL-HAYAH that he found al-Samarra'i's charge that Barzani was trying to assassinate him strange. He stressed that Barzani himself had given al-Jalabi that information and asked him to warn al-Samarra'i.

Al-Samarra'i wondered why SAIRI was "angry." He asked: "Was it because we said that Mas'ud Barzani participated with Iran in the occupation of the Hajj 'Imran area in 1983? Was it because his father (the late Mustafa Barzani) helped Iran in the abrogation of the 1937 Iraqi-Iranian border agreement?" He emphasized: "Nobody can isolate me from the Iraqi people in the north, south, and center. We do not want people other than Iraqis to have trusteeship over Iraq."

He said that he did not meet with al-Hakim in Damascus because he "does not uphold a purely national slogan,

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and I will not meet with anyone who does not uphold such a slogan...I refused to meet with al-Hakim because I have my own Arab ideas." He said that the real problem in Iraq was that various parties wanted to partition it, some in favor of the adjacent east and some in defense of partitionist ideas. He added: We tell them all that we are the ones who will carry out revolutionary change in Iraq and we expect everyone to support us under a national slogan, and they should heed past lessons." [quotemarks as published]. He said that he was "against chauvinism and against sectarianism, and the efforts of all those who try to harm us will be in vain." He stressed that "their trend will not govern Iraq."

Meanwhile, Jabr has told AL-HAYAH that al-Hakim's meetings in Damascus resulted in agreement with the pan- Arab opposition factions to "reactivate" the work of the "Pan-Arab and Islamic Action Committee in Iraq" on the basis of the points agreed upon at the end of 1992, unify the political line of the Iraqi opposition on the basis of these points, reactivate field work in the Kurdish region in cooperation with the Kurdish parties, contact the Iraqi Army, develop work in the south, and contact the Western region and the Iraqi tribes. He added that "the reactivation of work and of the Coordination Committee will be done through the inclusion of all national and pan-Arab trends in the committee." But he ruled out acceptance of al-Samarra'i in it "because he only represents himself, and the 'Iraqi National Movement' which he speaks of only has one person, namely Major General al-Samarra'i himself."

The movement issued its first statement in Damascus yesterday supporting the call made by Mahdi al-'Ubaydi, official in charge of foreign affairs in the "Coordination Committee," for the formation of a national opposition front. The statement, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH bureau in Damascus, said that: "As our Iraqi people's determination to continue their struggle to bring down the oppressive dictatorial regime in Baghdad and establish a regime of justice and freedom intensifies, and as the dictator tries to take a series of false measures to fool the international community and break its [the regime's] isolation such as the temporary dismissal of some executioner ministers, and considering the possible reactions if Sa'dun Hammadi is appointed prime minister, some Arab nationalist opposition leaders are being targeted by certain exposed parties in a campaign of hostility and time-wasting."

The statement, signed by "Secretary General" al-Samarra'i, urged "harmonious national and pan-Arab opposition forces to unite without delay." It added that the movement "believes in the formation of a national front of forces which believe in armed struggle as a way to salvation."

'Revolutionary Hizballah' Claim Neutrality With KDP, PUK

MM0708105695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Aug 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "'Revolutionary Hizballah' Stresses Its Neutrality Between Talabani and Barzani"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — "The Kurdish Revolutionary Hizballah" has affirmed its "position of neutrality toward the internecine fighting raging between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], which is led by Jalal Talabani, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], which is led by Mas'ud Barzani." It stressed that "these battles will only serve the interests of the dictatorial regime in Baghdad and give Turkey an opportunity to interfere militarily in the liberated territory of Iraqi Kurdistan and expose the Kurdish experience to pressures on flimsy pretexts."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Badr Isma'il, the official in charge of the party's executive bureau, categorically denied what was reported in a statement attributed to a PUK spokesman that forces of the party [Revolutionary Hizballah] took part in the fighting on the side of the Barzani forces last month.

Isma'il pointed out that a party delegation led by Adham Barzani is currently in Geneva "to explain the position of the Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan and the conditions they are experiencing and to participate in meetings of UN human rights committees at the world organization's European headquarters.

Meanwhile, in London, Iraqi opposition organizations have denounced the pardon decision granted by the Revolution Command Council (the highest political body) in Iraq, which is headed by President Saddam Husayn, to all those convicted of political crimes. A statement issued by the "Iraqi Democratic National Accord Grouping," a copy of which has been received by AL-HAYAH, states that that "Saddam was not qualified legally, politically, or morally to issue such a decision after having drenched the soil of Iraq with the innocent blood of its sons. Indeed, he himself is in dire need for someone to grant him pardon for the series of abominable crimes he has committed against the Iraqis, the Iranians, and the Kuwaitis." The statement stressed the need to topple the repressive regime and establish a democratic regime in its place.

A number of Islamic organizations have issued statements saying that "the honorable Iraqis have not committed a crime by their opposition to the dictatorial

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regime of Saddam, so they have no need for this theatrical amnesty."

The "Islamic Action Organization," the "Islamic Cadres Movement," the "Imam Soldiers Movement" [Harakat Jund al-Imam], "Islamic Call" [Al-Da'wah al-Islamiyah] and the Islamic al-Da'wah party have issued a joint statement saying that "it is the Iraqi people, represented by their elected constitutional government and legitimate institutions, who have the vested authority, power, and right to grant pardons for whoever they wish from those who have committed crimes against the Iraqi people or to pass just punishments on them, following proper trials to be held after the toppling of the dictatorial regime."

Al-Naqib Reaffirms Cooperation With Barzani, Talabani

MM0808154695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Aug 95 p 6

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Al-Naqib: I Cooperate With Barzani To Change the Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Major General Hasan al-Naqib, member of the Presidential Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], has reaffirmed his insistence on "cooperation with the patriotic leaders Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani to bring down the Baghdad regime." He said that it was unlikely that Barzani would again negotiate with President Saddam Husayn and emphasized that "the so-called Congress is now a company of Ahmad al-Jalabi," its Executive Council's chairman. Al-Naqib added: "I will not accept to be a part of the Congress presidency in this way, a false witness to the autocratic conduct of al-Jalabi."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Damascus, al-Naqib said: "Our relations with the brother Kurds are strategic, especially brother Barzani and brother Talabani whom we respect and who, we believe, would not negotiate with Saddam's regime."

It should be recalled that Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former chief of Iraqi military intelligence, who is now in Damascus, had accused Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic party [KDP], of plotting to assassinate him and of coordinating with Baghdad against the "Arab Iraqi opposition" in northern Iraq.

Al-Naqib said: "We work with Barzani and Talabani for the downfall of the regime. I believe that it is unlikely that they would consider negotiating with it. I will continue to coordinate with the Kurdish brothers. We have our own political and military entity and an extension into the Army." He said that "the Arab democratic trend should be at the forefront of those seeking to change the regime." He urged "support for that trend" pointing out that "many of our martyrs in the opposition were Army officers, and the execution of officers takes in place in Baghdad on a daily basis."

He strongly criticized "the lies and trickery as well as opposition which acts as if opposition is an intellectual luxury." He said that "the Iraqi people no longer tolerate lies while the international powers are punishing them but not touching the regime." He expressed regret that "the so-called Iraqi National Congress no longer represents Iraqi patriotic forces and has become the company of Ahmad al-Jalabi. We will never work in it."

Asked how he would justify his reservations about the Congress and its Executive Council chairman, he replied: "We had wanted the Congress to be a big tent embodying all patriotic trends but because of the autocratic attitude of al-Jalabi, it has been disintegrating from within, reaching a state of deterioration and ill repute in northern Iraq." He explained that "everyone in Salah-al-Din, from the grocer to the butcher, is now asking al-Jalabi and his clique to pay debts due from them. Every time a car of theirs is spotted it is confiscated, and that is despite the Congress' vast resources and the fact that the Americans supported al-Jalabi." He said that "some groups and figures have suspended their membership of the Congress, and I believe that Barzani shares my opinion of al-Jalabi who, in an autocratic way, carried out a failed military operation at the points of contact" with the Iraqi forces in the north last March. He added that "all the Barzanis took a stand against him and his practices, which have destroyed the Congress."

Paper Claims Trade Protocol Signed Between KDP, Regime

NC0208160695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] KURDISTAN NWAY today cited a reliable source from the area of (Bahdinan) as saying that trade relations between the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and Saddam's regime are growing just as their political relations are growing.

According to a protocol signed by the two sides, supplies and foodstuffs are being shipped to the areas controlled by Saddam's regime via the common checkpoint of Fa'idah, known as the common central market in Fa'idah. The foodstuffs come originally from Turkey and are shipped to al-Mawsil town by the 'Aflaqite regime's intelligence forces. The supplies are then shipped on to the Jordanian capital, Amman, where

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they are sold for hard currency to buy necessities for the 'Aflaqite regime. In return, the party gets five tanker loads of oil and gasoline every day.

Non-Kurdish Opposition Moves to Damascus From North

MM0708133895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Aug 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Leaders Move Their Activities to Damascus Temporarily"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ankara, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — A number of non—Kurdish Iraqi opposition leaders have moved their activities from Irbil and al—Sulaymaniyah to the Syrian capital, Damascus. Some of them — politicians, military men, poets, artists, and writers — had used north Iraq as a base for their activities.

As a result of the recent infighting between the two Kurdish leaders, Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani, which led to limiting the opposition's activities, these leaders decided to move to and settle in Damascus — if only temporarily — until stability is restored in north Iraq.

Informed sources believe that most of these leaders are likely to have met with two prominent oppositionists, namely Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim [chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq] and Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former chief of Iraqi intelligence and currently an oppositionist, to draw up more practical and effective formulas for the Iraqi opposition's moves in the country, which are normally launched from north Iraq, now that Iran has restricted its movements under an undeclared agreement with Iraq. [passage omitted]

U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to UN

JN0608111895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 6 Aug (INA)— Iraq has protested to the United Nations against the continued violation of its airspace by U.S. aircraft for surveillance and provocation.

A letter addressed by Iraq's permanent UN representative to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali says that U.S. aircraft violated the Iraqi airspace 659 times over various areas in northern and southern Iraq from 21-31 July.

In the letter, Iraq also protested violations by the U.S. reconnaissance plane TR-1. Taking off from its bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the plane mounted 13 airspace violations over southern Iraq.

Iraq requested that the letter be distributed as a UN Security Council document.

Minister Meets UNDP Baghdad Resident Representative

JN0508171095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Aug 95

[From the "Evening Newspaper" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor and Social Affairs Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim today met with (Muhammad Zijari), resident representative of the United Nations Development Program [UNDP], in Baghdad.

The talks addressed the aspects of cooperation and coordination between the ministry and the UNDP in the areas pertaining to the World Food Program and the future plans aimed at implementing the recommendations of the World Summit on Social Development to curb poverty and unemployment.

Saddam Chairs Joint Meeting; 'Aziz Notes Decisive Stand

JN0708142695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1308 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)— President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said in the meeting that Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Security Council's Special Commission, was notified during his recent visit of the leadership's clear and decisive position on the relationship with the Special Commission and the Security Council. This position was adopted as one of the most important decisions of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's 11th Congress—the Congress of the Crossing.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Presidential Office as well as the ministers of foreign affairs, culture and information, and oil.

SAIRI's al-Hakim Cited on Damascus Meetings, Amnesty

JN0608181195 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], returned to Tehran last Thursday [3 August] after a two-week visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. His eminence held talks with senior Syrian officials, led by President Hafiz al- Asad. He also held similar meetings

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with several groups of the Iraqi opposition stationed in Syria. The talks covered ways to activate and escalate militant, practical action through a new plan which his eminence presented to these groups. The plan was welcomed and received with large-scale understanding.

His eminence answered reporters questions at Tehran international airport concerning his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. He said:

We discussed various issues related to Arab and Islamic developments with particular emphasis on Iraq and the exacerbating Iraqi people's tragedy because of the policy of the Saddamist regime which is ruling them with fire and iron. I found out that President Hafiz al-Asad shares our views on important matters. I found him very sympathetic and interested in our people's cause. We also discussed certain ideas and practical proposals which we believe are important and effective in the present circumstances.

His eminence al-Hakim said: The Palestinian cause and the tragedy of the Muslims of Bosnia and Herzegovnia occupied an important part of my talks with President al-Asad.

Answering a question on the regime's alleged amnesty for Iraqi political detainees, his eminence said: The tyrant and his regime do not respect the simplest of laws and do not honor any of their decisions. This amnesty decision is just like the regime's other decision. It is meant to deceive public opinion outside Iraq and absorb the domestic indignation against it—indignation which constitutes a serious threat to its oppression of the Iraqi people. These decisions have no value because they will never be implemented or put into effect. Repression and harassment is the regime's hallmark because it has grudges against our people.

His eminence added: By his latest amnesty decision, the tyrant wants to show the world that he has abandoned the policy of repression and violation of human rights. However, the international community is aware of the identity, policy, and lies of this regime.

Joint Committee With Pakistan Begins Baghdad Meetings

JN0708191995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1445 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—Meetings of the Joint Iraqi-Pakistani Committee began here today. The meetings were attended on the Iraqi side by Dr. Khaz'al Khudayyir al-Janabi, under secretary of the Agriculture Ministry, and representatives of a number of ministries and the Iraqi Central Bank. They were attended on the Pakistani side by Asghar Asad Hasan, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Production [title as received], and his delegation.

The two sides discussed ways to enhance cooperation between both friendly countries in a way that achieves the common interests of their peoples. They also decided to set up working committees to discuss promoting bilateral relations in the trade, industrial, health, agricultural, scientific, technical, financial, and manpower fields.

Pakistani Official Discusses Cooperation

JN0708070495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0615 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—Asghar Hasan, under secretary of the Pakistani Ministry of Trade and Production [title as received], stressed the desire to expand cooperation with Iraq in the economic, commercial, and technical fields. In statements published here today, he said he will meet during his current visit to Baghdad with several Iraqi officials to agree on a working program and a plan for future cooperation between the two countries.

The Pakistani official hailed the great efforts exerted by Iraq to rebuild the civilian and industrial facilities and buildings targeted by the 30-state aggression.

Saddam Congratulates Yasir 'Arafat on Birthday

JN0408104695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1020 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to his brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on his birthday.

The cable says: On your birthday, we are pleased to extend to you our best congratulations and warmest fraternal feelings. We beseech God to grant you good health and long life and to grant success to the militant Palestinian Arab people in their great struggle to achieve their noble objectives of freedom and independence.

Saddam Receives Cable From Castro on Reelection

JN0308174395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1150 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulation from Fidel Castro, president of Cuba and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, on the occasion of Saddam's reelection as secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The cable says:

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I am pleased to extend to your excellency, in my name and on behalf of the Communist party of Cuba, our congratulations on your reelection as secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party during its recent 11th Congress.

We believe that the results of the congress will help the Iraqi people attain a new power to continue their battle and overcome obstacles resulting from the severe blockade imposed on Iraq.

I take this opportunity to renew to your excellency our feelings of friendship and solidarity.

Bombs, Mines Defused in al-Muthanna Governorate

JN0508094795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Samawah, 5 Aug (INA)—The Civil Defense Bomb Disposal Squads in the governorate of al-Muthanna, 450 km southwest of Baghdad, last week defused 200 bombs and unexploded mines, which were dropped by the aircraft of the treacherous aggression on residential areas, farms, and groves in the governorate.

It is noteworthy that the governorate's Civil Defense Department defused 1,657 mines and bombs of various sizes and measurements this year.

Saddam Addresses Cabinet on Protecting Public Money

JN0708185695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has said: We believe that the judiciary must play its role fully in terms of achieving justice, far away from the effects and pressure of illegitimate interests or from administrative decisions that do not achieve the public interest. This came in the leader president's address to the 29th session of the Council of Ministers.

His excellency said: The concern for public money must take much of our attention. The people in charge, led by the minister, must protect assets such as machines, equipment, vehicles, materials, as well as the methods of their storage, usage, and maintenance. Special care must be given to enlighten workers and to stir their patriotism and enthusiasm to care for these assets and to repair those that are damaged or out of order. His excellency added: Thus, when workers' potentials are mobilized and their morale is lifted you will see that they will achieve big results. There is in front of you a new experiment which stemmed from an idea that was presented two months ago. The Military Industrialization [Organization] — together with elements from the Air Force, the Army Aviation, and the mechanized electrical engineering — repaired some military equipment, which was out of order or damaged, in a campaign which they named: "The Call of the Leader." In two months, they repaired hundreds of personnel carriers, guns, tanks, helicopters, fighter planes, training planes, communications equipment, and tens of thousands of light and medium weapons. All these became serviceable again at low cost.

The Council of Ministers valued and commended these splendid achievements in which the Military Industrialization mujahidin and their comrades achieve each day new feats that will be added to their record, which is full of feats in the march of our people, overcoming the difficulties imposed by the unjust blockade.

The Council of Ministers discussed, in its 29th session, the topics on its agenda and adopted the necessary organizational and financial measures and decisions concerning these issues.

'Saddam Cubs' Graduate in Baghdad, Governorates

JN0408100395

[Editorial Report] Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 July 1995 publishes on page five a 1,500-word report on the ceremonies that were held in Baghdad and several other Iraqi governorates marking the graduation of the first class, "The Leader's Call Class," of "Saddam Cubs" [Ashbal Saddam]. The paper says that the Baghdad ceremony, which was officiated by 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, acting secretary of the party's Central Students and Youth Bureau, consisted, among other activities, of military exercises, which included parachute jumps and war combat. The report adds that similar ceremonies were held in the governorates of Salah al-Din, Ninawa, al-Ta'mim, al-Qadisiyah, al-Najaf, al-Muthanna, Babil, al-Anbar, Maysan, Karabala', Dhi Qar, al-Basrah, Diyala, and Wasit in the presence of the local governors and secretaries of party branch leaderships.

Second Increase in Saddam Awards to Outstanding Student

JN0308193295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The leader president, may God preserve and protect him, has ordered that the value of the Saddam Award for outstanding students in all specialities included in the competition in Iraqi universities for the scholastic year 1994-1995, be increased as follows:

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First: Saddam Award for outstanding students graduating from Iraqi universities who won the competition:

—The first prize for the first among Iraqi university graduates in each specialization will be raised to 200,000 dinars from 100,000 dinars.
—The second prize for the second among Iraqi university graduates in each specialization will be raised to 150,000 dinars from 75,000 dinars.
—The third prize for the third among Iraqi university graduates in each specialization will be raised to 100,000 dinars from 50,000 dinars.
—A consolation prize worth 25,000 dinars.

Second: Saddam Award for outstanding students who have not yet completed their university studies in the specializations equivalent to those at Saddam University and who have won the competition:

—First prize of 50,000 dinars for the first in each specialization.
—Second prize of 30,000 dinars for the second in each specialization.
—Third prize of 20,000 dinars for the third in each specialization.
—A consolation prize of 10,000 dinars.

Government Sets Prices for Winter Season Grain Seed

JN0808064295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has ordered that the selling prices of wheat and barley seeds for the winter season 1995/96 be defined on the basis of the official purchase price from farmers without adding the costs of refining and marketing, administrative costs, and interest on the loans drawn by seed production firms to support the agricultural sector in general and farmers in particular. The aim is to augment grain production and achieve self-sufficiency in this area in order to break the unfair embargo clamped on our dear country.

Pursuant to the instructions of his excellency the president, the selling prices of wheat and barley seeds will be as follows:

Type and Grade	Selling Price in dinar per per tonne
Wheat, first grade, musaddaqah [certified]	157,500
Wheat, Improved A	141,750
Wheat, Improved B	131,250
Coarse wheat, musaddaqah	150,000
Coarse wheat, Improved A	135,000
Coarse wheat, Improved B	125,000
Wheat, second grade, musaddaqah	142,500
Wheat, Improved A	128,250
Wheat, Improved B	118,750
Barley, musaddaqah	90,000
Barley, Improved A	81,000
Barley, Improved B	75,000 dinar

Farmers Urged To Follow Saddam Directives on Harvest

JN0408100795 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 25 Jul 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Mizban Khadr Hadi, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of Ba'th Party organizations in Ninawa, Irbil, and Dahuk Governorates, has met with the peasants, farmers, party officials, and administrative personnel who are taking part in the wheat and barley harvest and marketing campaign in al-Hamadaniyah District, Ninawa Governorate. Addressing the participants, comrade Hadi affirmed that implementation of leader President Saddam Husayn's directives concerning the harvest and marketing campaign is a national responsibility and an act of jihad for the sake of strengthening our people's resolve to beat the enemies' blockade and achieving and achieve final victory.

Comrade Hadi underscored the importance of selling the entire wheat and barley crop to the Trade Ministry's receiving centers with the required speed and precision in order to ensure food for our people and deprive Iraq's enemies of the opportunity to undermine the steadfastness of the Iraqis and the gains of the great 17-30 July Revolution.

Minister Urges Farmers To Sell All Crops to Government

JN0408101495 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 25 Jul 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Muhammad Zimam 'Abd- al-Qadir has discussed with Ninawa Governor Ahmad Ibrahim Hammash and the heads of the administrative units in the governorate the stages which have been covered by the current wheat and

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barley marketing campaign in the governorate. During this discussion, which was held at the governorate's offices, the minister emphasized that legal measures will be taken against those peasants and farmers who do not sell their entire crop to the Trade Ministry's receiving centers.

The minister called for the exertion of all efforts and the utilization of all capabilities in order to sell the entire crop to government grain collection centers for the sake of backing the ration card and foiling enemy plans.

'Izzat Ibrahim Inspects Seed Multiplication Project

JN0408101195 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 26 Jul 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim yesterday visited the strategic seed multiplication project in Ninawa Governorate, where he was briefed by the officials in charge on the process of producing the best types of seeds, which are hybridized and multiplied under the best specifications so that they can resist disease and suit the climate.

'Izzat Ibrahim urged the officials to speed up the purification and sterilization process to ensure early distribution of seeds among our devout peasants and farmers who have the scientific knowledge and field experience.

'Izzat Ibrahim also affirmed during a meeting with the scientific and administrative personnel of the seed multiplication and distribution companies, Iba' Agricultural Research Center, and the strategic seed multiplication project the need to carry out experiments on Iraqi soil under different climatic conditions in order to obtain the best types of seeds.

The officials renewed the pledge of affection and absolute loyalty to leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, and said that they will exert their maximum efforts in order to provide the best types of seeds as a challenge to the unfair blockade which has been imposed on our great Iraq.

Party Official Meets Harvest Committee in al-Qadisiyah

JN0408101295 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 26 Jul 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Radi Hasan Salman, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of Ba'th Party organizations in al-Najaf, al-Qadisiyah, and al-Muthanna Governorates, has met with the Central Harvest and Marketing Committee in al-Qadisiyah Governorate in order to discuss the measures which have been taken and the results which have been achieved in the current wheat and barley harvest and marketing campaign. Comrade Salman emphasized the need to call on peasants and farmers to sell their entire crops, especially since government agencies will ensure their supply of improved seeds in the coming season. He said that the crops are needed to ensure food for the citizens and to foil the vicious attempts to undermine the Iraqi people's will power and legendary steadfastness.

Comrade Salman pointed out during this meeting, which was attended by al-Qadisiyah Governor Tariq Fayzi al-Hazza' and the comrade secretary of al-Qadisiyah party branch leadership, that outstanding peasants should be rewarded and defaulters who fail to honor their obligations be made accountable in accordance with Revolution Command Council Decree No. 40 of 1995.

Paper Notes Rise in Production of Oil, Grease, Solvents

JN0808202595 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Technical teams of the State Enterprise for Oil Refining in the central region, al-Dawrah Refinery, have succeeded in producing paraffin wax, crystal wax, and medical vaseline.

Making this announcement, Director General Kamil Ja'far 'Awdah said his enterprise also produces oils, greases, and solvents for different uses. These products, he added, include oil for high- powered transformers similar to the German kloyer [name as transliterated] which is used in textile and silk plants, anti-rust oil for industrial firms, cleansing oil for iron and steel plants, anti-congestion oil for all national industries, Crafskon [name as transliterated] grease for cement plants, and special solvents for the tire factory in al-Najaf. The director general pointed out that these and other oils and greases have made savings of $15 million annually. With the new oils, the enterprise now produces 150 types of oil, he said. He also said that the production of asphalt has increased recently by 140 percent and grease by 150 percent.

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Settlers Demonstrate, Vow To Pursue Struggle

TA0808170895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has ended. Emerging from the session, settlement leaders told our correspondent Gil Litman that the prime minister decided to set up a committee headed by Noah Kinarti, the defense minister's aide on settlement affairs, to discuss the needs of the settlements in the territories. They added that the prime minister did not comply with their demands concerning a referendum prior to expanding Palestinian autonomy, the preservation of state lands, and greater security for the settlers. Consequently, the settlement council announced that it will pursue its struggle.

At the moment, members of the Zo Artzenu movement are intermittently blocking road junctions throughout Israel and the territories. Policemen are dispersing the demonstrators, with clashes occasionally breaking out between the two sides. Several dozen right-wing activists have been detained so far. Many junctions remain blocked in Jerusalem, with the largest number of demonstrators gathered on Highway No. 1 at the entrance to the city.

Sixty Injured in Demonstrations

TA0808184495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Settlers occupied several hills in Judaea and Samaria today and announced that they were establishing encampments at these sites. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that encampments were set up near Susiyah in the Hebron Hills, in the vicinity of Elon More, in Alfey Menashe, near al-Nabi Samu'il, and near 'Ofra. In the vicinity of Karmey Tzur, near Halhul, dozens of settlers set up an encampment on a plot of land owned by an Arab. Settlers from Qiryat Arba' occupied an empty house at Haharsina Junction, near the entrance to Hebron.

Over 40 junctions throughout Israel and the territories, including some key intersections, were blocked today for lengthy periods by right-wing demonstrators. In some places, demonstrators who squatted on the road had to be forcibly removed. The junctions were closed and reopened intermittently, causing serious traffic disruptions. The Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway remained blocked for over 40 minutes, creating a traffic jam from Tel Aviv to Kefar Habad. The police arrested dozens of right-wing activists throughout the country.

At Sanhedriya Junction in Jerusalem, a Jewish youngster suspected of slashing the tires of a police motorbike was detained for questioning. Several dozen demonstrators surrounded a police patrol car at the junction and smashed its windows. Two policemen were slightly injured. Demonstrators are still trying to block the road at the entrance to Jerusalem.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 8 August puts the number of encampments set up by the settlers today at 15. The report adds that today's demonstrations have so far resulted in the wounding of at least 60 people, most of them with slight injuries.]

Police Arrest Zo Artzenu Chairman

TA0908044095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, settlers climbed several hills in Judaea and Samaria and announced that they were settling up outposts. Among other sites, outposts were established near the settlements of Susiya, Elon More, Alfey Menashe, 'Ofra, and Karmey Tzur near al-Nabi Samu'il.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports several dozen youths from the Yizre'el Valley spent the night on a hill between the settlements of Ganim and Qadim near Janin. They were led by Tzomet Knesset Member Moshe Peled.

Last night, the police arrested approximately 130 right-wing activists who participated in blocking roads, including Moshe Feiglin, the chairman of Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land]. The Israel Police intend to bring charges against some of those arrested who will be accused of attacking policemen and taking part in an illegal gathering. Serious traffic jams were caused yesterday as a result of the settlers' activities. The Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway was blocked for over 40 minutes and traffic was backed up for 12 kilometers between Tel Aviv and Kefar Habad.

Movement Leader Convicted of Rioting

TA0908111195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Rehovot District Court imposed a fine of 10,000 shekels or ten months in jail on Moshe Feiglin, one of the leaders of the Zo Artzenu [This is Our Land] movement after convicting him of rioting in the course of yesterday's demonstrations. Judge Avital Bet-Ner also gave Feiglin a six-month suspended sentence and three years probation. The suspended sentence will be enforced if Feigling repeats

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the offenses. Feiglin was also forbidden to attend any illegal gathering. He must pay the fine within two weeks.

Our correspondent Yehudit Yehezqeli adds that Feiglin was arrested yesterday at a demonstration at Rishon Leziyyon's Gan Haveradim junction. Contrary to regular practice, the Israel Police and the prosecutor's office quickly submitted a charge sheet to the court.

Following his conviction, Moshe Feiglin said he intended to ignore the court's ruling. He would not pay the fine and would continue to demonstrate.

Minister Warns Movement May Be Banned

TA0908063695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal warned that if the members of the Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land] movement continued to block main roads, their activities could lead to bloodshed. Therefore, if the situation deteriorated, the authorities would consider declaring the movement illegal.

Minister Shahal stressed that the government would not tolerate anarchy or a state of lawlessness. The police are holding over 100 activists in detention and also plan to bring charges against the organizers. Shahal said that the organizers of the demonstrations may be sued for damages as a result of the economic losses caused by the blocking of roads throughout the country yesterday. Police Minister Shahal was talking to Qol Yisra'el.

Peres: Protests Will Not Affect Talks

TA0908111095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that right-wing protests are endangering Israel's democratic nature by undermining the Knesset's authority. Peres nevertheless stressed that the demonstrations would have no effect on the negotiations with the Palestinians.

In an interview to Qol Yisra'el, the foreign minister said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would complete its redeployment in Judaea and Samaria by the middle of 1997. Peres denied reports that Israel had agreed to withdraw from most of the West Bank and asserted that any changes in the sovereignty would only be discussed in the negotiations over the permanent arrangement. We have neither drawn up maps nor demarcated the borders, the foreign minister emphasized.

Rabin: Hamas Responsible for Torpedoing PA Deal

TA0808180795 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, has disclosed that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] offices abroad, headed by Musa Abu-Marzuq, torpedoed the agreement between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas in the Gaza Strip on halting terrorist activity. Our political affairs correspondent adds that the prime minister noted that Israel has relayed to the U.S. authorities the legal justifications in support of its demand that Abu-Marzuq be extradited to stand trial in Israel. Rabin added that 95 percent of the terrorist activities that have taken place recently in Israel were planned and carried out by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

'Complete Control' of Water Resources Urged

TA0808121095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Waterless Agreement"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sources close to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said on Sunday [6 August] that Israel may sign an agreement with the Palestinians leaving some of the crucial issues unresolved. These include the army's withdrawal plans in Hebron, the production and distribution of electricity in Judaea and Samaria, and the control of water resources.

The reason for this haste is all too clear: Both Israel and the Palestinians are concerned about the political consequences of an impasse, and both want to sign the agreement on implementing "Oslo's second phase" by the middle of September. Since it is unlikely they can agree on solutions to the thornier problems by then, they would rather leave them for later, with the understanding that a later agreement can be incorporated as an appendix to the main document.

This decision is worrisome on several counts, not least of which is that it is a retreat from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's solemn Knesset pledge of July 17 on the question of water. His announcement at the time was unequivocal: "If the issue is not resolved satisfactorily, we will not sign (the second phase of the interim agreement.)"

To scuttle this wise decision within less than a month only because the negotiating partners want to reassure their constituencies that they are making progress is irresponsible. Water is the key not only to Israel's growth, but to its survival as a modern country. Only

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if it preserves its current capacity and develops new water resources can the country maintain it standard of living, keep its professionals from emigrating, develop its industry and agriculture, and attract immigrants from Western countries.

By sheer coincidence, the day Peres announced the likely postponement of the negotiations over water, the World Bank published a harrowing report on the state of the world's water supply. More than 40 percent of the world's population is suffering from water shortage, it said. At least 1.7 billion are living without minimal sanitary installations. A grave water crisis is facing all continents but the Americas (though even in the U.S. there is a problem of deteriorating water quality). To prevent catastrophic deterioration, the Bank recommends an investment of the unprecedented sum of $800 billion over the next 10 years.

Dr. 'Amiqam Nahmani of Bar-Ilan University asserts that in 30 years, the average net water resources in the Middle East are expected to be less than 700 cubic meters per person per year, half of what they are today. "When resources fall below 1,000 cubic meters per capita per year," he writes, "difficult socio-economic adjustments are required to cope with such scarcity."

For a time, water-rich Turkey was considered a possible water source for the whole region. A Turkish "peace pipeline" was once proposed which would carry water to the entire Middle East and Persian Gulf. But the Turkish government has made it clear that it has no intention to sell water to Israel or anyone else because Turkey needs all the water itself. It is even planning to stop the flow of the Euphrates into Syria and Iraq, making these countries more possessive about their own water sources and more covetous of water in neighboring countries.

No sane government can relinquish control over water resources under such circumstances. In Israel's case, control over the Judaea and Samaria aquifers determines how much water can be pumped in the low areas, where two thirds of Israel's population and industry lie. To believe that there can be cooperation, collaboration and sharing between Israel and the Palestinians once the PLO assumes the responsibilities of a sovereign power in these areas is to defy the most basic common sense. Israel must keep complete control over these resources in the foreseeable future, or it will be sacrificing its very lifeblood on the altar of "peace."

Commentator Attacks Policy Toward Palestinians

TA0808120995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Aug 95 p 6

[Commentary by Yisra'el Har'el, "chairman of the Council of Jewish Settlements of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and editor of NEQUDA": "On the Way to Chaos"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is relinquishing the reins of power. Whether or not this is by choice, the fact remains that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is now the one in charge. Abetted by a cadre of civilians and military officials, the foreign minister is rapidly pushing towards implementation of the second stage of the Oslo accords, all the time making extravagant, irreversible concessions.

He has already determined, five years before the permanent settlement is to be implemented, that the borders dividing the Palestinian and Jewish states will be drawn at Qalqilyah (a literal stone's throw from Kfar Saba) and at the outskirts of Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood.

In addition, the plan includes handing over to the PLO more than two-thirds of the state-owned lands in Judaea and Samaria in the near future. Peres typically, intentionally misled the Israeli public by declaring that only 18 percent of these lands will be transferred to 'Arafat at this stage (HA'ARETZ, July 6). With jurisdiction over the land, the Palestinians will be able to grant building permits at will and choke Jewish settlements, as well as build along the bypass roads, thereby undermining the entire purpose behind constructing safe roads for Jewish transportation.

It is unheard of in any other country for a foreign minister to deceive and dupe his own people, while making every effort to deal with the opposing side with honesty ("we must keep our word") and sympathy for their cause.

The government's fundamental willingness to hand over Rachel's Tomb — which is now being reappraised after the overwhelming public outcry — to the Palestinian "Authority," (let's stop beating around the bush and come right out with it: the Palestinian state) demonstrates more than anything else the nature of the sealed room in which the government leaders have shut themselves.

The patience of the silent majority, and at whose expense all these concessions are being made, is wearing thin. My fear is that the threads which still join our people together as one entity are beginning to unravel, if not tear. Territorial concessions — opponents of which have already made it patently clear, even before implementation, that they consider such a policy

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flagrantly illegal — may lead Israel to constant unrest, chaos and chronic instability, if not worse.

If the government is confident of the course it has taken (and is convinced that the narrow technical majority it holds in the Knesset indeed represents the will of the people), it must prove it — and do so before the implementation of the second stage — in one of two ways: Either hold general elections now, or, as an alternative, hold a referendum. Only the unqualified approval by a Jewish majority of these ultimate, farreaching and irreversible steps, can lend some form of legitimacy to the acts of the government and can halt the tendency toward division and insurrection now spreading all over the country.

Without this approval from the people, all the appeals for obedience to the "elected government," the "rule of law" and "legal order" are futile. Even the calls of President Weizman and others to obey the government are being heeded by fewer and fewer citizens.

Those who feel with all their being that they are being humiliated and abused, and that that which is most sacred to them is being handed over to their sworn enemy, will soon become sick and tired of a democracy that exploits its power to bring all this upon them.

And when this rumbling volcano erupts, the molten lava may wash away everything in its path.

Peres Confident of Achieving Peace With Syria

AU0808150095 Munich FOCUS in German 7 Aug 95 p 14

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Everything Is Just Simple Mathematics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [FOCUS] Will Israel have to give up the occupied territories in the end?

[Peres] The whole thing is just simple mathematics. Today 4.5 million Jews and 3.5 million non-Jews live between the Adriatic and the River Jordan. If we were to annex the territories with their population, 40 percent of the seats in the Knesset (Parliament) would immediately be in the hands of the Palestinians, and in 15 years the Palestinians would even have the majority. This would be the end of Israel as a Jewish state.

[FOCUS] Will the procedure for the West Bank be the same as it was for Gaza?

[Peres] Even though the problems are different, the solution will be similar.

[FOCUS] With a complete withdrawal from the West Bank?

[Peres] Within the framework of the interim agreement with the PLO, the Jewish quarter in the center of Hebron will not be abolished, and a return to the borders of 1967 is completely out of the question.

[FOCUS] It is said that many settlers are willing to leave the West Bank, if the government were to pay appropriate compensation.

[Peres] We are not calling on any settler to leave his place of residence, and, therefore, we will not pay anything. If today people would leave the territories thanks to compensation payments, others might settle there because they are smelling the business of their lives.

[FOCUS] What are the current problems in the negotiations with Syria? Is there a lack of Israeli readiness for concessions?

[Peres] Via the United States, we have agreed with Syria on a certain procedure....

[FOCUS] ...that is, a continuation of the negotiations at the level of officers....

[Peres] But Damascus is not observing the agreements, and as long as this is happening there is no point in continuing. In the end, however, we will have peace with the Syrians, because the disappearance of the USSR as the main supplier of weapons, the crumbling of the Arab coalition against Israel, and our will for peace have deprived Damascus of the option of waging war against us. The speed of negotiations and the progress are, however, doubtlessly determined by Syrian President al-'Asad.

Jurists Gathering Evidence Against Abu-Marzuq

TA0808120295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel has asked Argentina to request Paraguay to extradite the suspects in the attack on the Jewish community building in Buenos Aires. This was said by Prime Minister Rabin in the cabinet session today in response to a question posed by Minister Aloni regarding the extradition to Israel of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official Musa Abu-Marzuq.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports the prime minister said that it is inconceivable for Israel not to demand Abu-Marzuq's extradition while making similar demands of other countries. Rabin also said that jurists are currently working toward turning the huge amount of intelligence information against Abu-Marzuq into legal evidence. [passage omitted]

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Bomb Safely Dismantled in Jerusalem

TA0808160295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A bomb planted at a bus station near the Rene Cassin School in Jerusalem's Ramot Eshkol neighborhood has been safely dismantled. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that Eshkol Boulevard was closed off while the police dealt with the bomb. To repeat, the bomb was dismantled without causing any casualties or damage.

Arab Charged With Spying for Palestinian Service

TA0908131695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad al-Mu'ati Hajj 'Abdallah, a resident of Tel Aviv, has been charged in the Tel Aviv District Court with spying for the Palestinian intelligence service. Our legal affairs correspondent 'Anat Peleg reports that the defendant holds an Israeli identity card. 'Abdallah worked as a Shin Bet collaborator, but about a month ago he approached the head of the Palestinian intelligence service on his own initiative and proposed to provide information about his Shin Bet controls and about other collaborators and also proposed to murder one such collaborator.

Espionage Case Involves Spying for Iran

TA0808170095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Herzl Rad, whose trial for espionage opened this afternoon in Jerusalem, is being charged with spying for Iran. Some of the charges in the case were made public this afternoon, and according to them Rad held contacts with an Iranian agent at the Iranian Embassy in Istanbul. He then traveled to Iran, where he visited the installations of the Iranian intelligence service.

In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Attorney Tziyon Amir, who is representing Rad, said that after his sojourn in Iran, his client returned to Turkey, where he was tried for illegal entry, given a symbolic fine, and released. He then returned to Israel.

Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that Justice Ayala Procaccia allowed some of the details of the espionage affair to be made public this afternoon, after it transpired that the Shin Bet had no objections. Rad is standing trial before Justices Ya'aqov Tzemah, Miryam Na'or, and Moussia Arad.

It also became known this afternoon that Rad usually resides in the United States, where he works as a textile merchant.

Baraq Appointment to Inner Cabinet Approved

TA0808144295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet today unanimously approved the appointment of Interior Minister Ehud Baraq as a member of the security inner cabinet, thus raising the number of members to 10 or half the number of ministers in the cabinet.

Radio Ship Reestablishes Broadcasting Signal

TA0908050795 (Internet) Shomron News Service in English 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At 6:30am, this morning, the SS Tzvi, the Channel 7 Radio ship set out on its journey from the Port of Ashdod for the twenty kilometer (12 mile) voyage outside of territorial waters of Israel. As promised, they have started broadcasting on schedule, despite the Ministry of Communications raid in which all transmitters were confiscated.

One of the station's managers, Mr. Hagay Segal, stated on IDF Radio that he would like to thank the Minister of Communications [Shulamit Aloni] for all her assistance. "We did not know how much support we had out there. Due to the raid, we now enjoy an even larger base of listeners and supporters".

The radio station managed to acquire new transmitters from Greece and will be back to full power by tomorrow morning.

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Parliament Condemns Israeli Decision on Mosque

JN0808174595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Aug 95

["Text" of statement by the House of Representatives on the Israeli Supreme Court ruling on the al-Aqsa Mosque issued on 8 August — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] With strong condemnation and deep anger, the Jordanian House of Representatives has received the news of the renewed and repeated attempts of the Temple Mount Faithful to enter and pray in the holy al-Aqsa Mosque — attempts that also coincide with moves by Israeli settlers and extremists in the rest of the occupied Arab lands.

The House of Representatives reiterates its unwavering position on holy Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Arab lands, the Arab and Islamic right to these holy places, and on the need to protect them from all that may infringe upon their sanctity and provoke Muslims all over the world. It also reaffirms that such attempts deal a blow to the ongoing peace process in the region, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track. They also represent strong insistence by the Israeli authorities to continue along the path of hegemony and expansion.

The House of Representatives expresses its condemnation of and indignation against this decision. It calls on the countries concerned with achieving peace in this region and all international organizations to shoulder their responsibilities in full and to pressure the Israeli occupation authorities to stop these unfair attempts and abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy issued by the UN Security Council and the United Nations.

The House of Representatives also calls on the parliaments party to the Inter-Parliamentary Union to intercede with their governments to undertake efforts to nullify this decision so as to avoid undermining the foundations of the just peace which we seek, and to halt the Israeli policy of expansion and settlement activity at the expense of the occupied Arab lands.

Paper: Ruling on Mosque Violates Peace Treaty

JN0708141195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Aug 95 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Jerusalem Is An Occupied Arab Land"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent political development represented in the Israeli Supreme Court decision allowing members of Temple Mount Faithful to enter the holy mosque in Jerusalem calls for a thorough examination of its serious dimensions.

This decision is an encroachment on the feelings of millions of Muslims who consider Jerusalem the first Qiblah, to which Prophet Muhammad turned when he first prayed to the Almighty God, and from which he ascended to heaven. Throughout history, this mosque remained one of the holiest shrines because it is one of the three holiest mosques to which Muslims go for pilgrimage.

The real danger of the Israeli decision lies in its disregard of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. No one should claim that this decision was not made by the government or that it was made by a body that falls outside the jurisdiction of the government; namely, the Israeli Supreme Court.

The treaty was ratified after passing all the legislative stages and turned into a law binding on the government as well as the courts, whose responsibility is to protect laws and see to their implementation.

The Israeli court decision tries to ignore the fact that Jerusalem is an occupied Arab land as stated in the international legitimacy laws and resolutions. Therefore, the Israeli Government should carry out its duty and protect the holy shrines in its capacity as the occupation authority whose actions are governed by a number of laws and rules agreed to by the entire world. These laws and rules define the occupying authority duties toward organizing life in the occupied territories and protecting the holy shrines.

Aware of the seriousness of the Israeli court decision, we would like to say that the Israeli Government should take action against this decision because it is a violation of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which, we hope, will usher in a new era of relations in the region. The decision is also a violation of international laws which, we hope, will continue to govern relations among states in the region.

Prime Minister Stresses 'Firm' Stand on Jerusalem

JN0708151695 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan has renewed its position and support of the Palestinian people in its endeavors aimed at regaining its legitimate national right on its national soil.

Speaking before the Upper House of Parliament before noon today, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir asserted Jordan's firm stand with regard to Jerusalem as an occupied Arab territory. He underlined that the kingdom was fully prepared to provide every possible support to safeguard Islamic holy shrines and ensure their continued safety and sanctity.

The prime minister pointed out that he relayed this Jordanian position to the Palestinian National Authority

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[PNA] when he contacted Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, who is in charge of the Jerusalem file in the PNA. He said he told Mr. al-Husayni that Jordan fully backs the Palestinians' effort to stand up against Israel's Supreme Court's ruling of last week, which allowed the so-called Temple Mount Faithful to enter al-Haram al-Sharif.

The prime minister added that the government believes the Israeli court decision constitutes a serious precedent, noting that Jordan would continue to follow up the issue.

Responding to the remarks of al-Sharif Zayd, a number of senators hailed the government stance on the latest developments in the holy city. They welcomed the official statement issued by the government yesterday, which came immediately after it had learned of the Israeli court ruling. In reaction to the Israeli move, the government spokesman said Jordan demanded prompt Israeli action to protect Islamic sites in the occupied Arab city of Jerusalem.

He said the government condemned the court ruling and considered it null and void because it constituted an offense to Mulsim's feeling and believed it was bound to obstruct the peace process.

Minister on Trade Opportunities With Israel

JN0508085695 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Aug 95 p 25

[Report by Muhammad Khayr al-Farah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Now that the House of Representatives and the Senate have endorsed a law ending the economic boycott and ban on dealing with the enemy, the Jordanian economic boycott of Israel is now over. Moreover, after Jordan and Israel signed a trade agreement, it is now possible to easily exchange Jordanian and Israeli goods in the two countries' markets without any obstacles.

This came in exclusive statements Minister of Industry and Trade 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib made to AL-DUSTUR. Abu-al-Raghib said that canceling the law related to the economic boycott and ban on dealing with the enemy should expose goods to new world markets. He added that it should activate Jordanian-Palestinian trade, on one hand, and Jordanian-Israeli trade after signing the trade agreement, on the other. Furthermore, the cancellation of this law will expand and activate Jordanian exports and open new prospects for them. This, Abu-al-Raghib noted, will have a positive reflection on and benefit and develop the national economy, in general.

The minister praised the positive reflections of canceling laws related to the economic boycott and ban on dealing with the enemy. These laws include Law No. 30, issued in 1973, which bans the sale of real estate to the enemy; unified Law No. 10, issued in 1958, on the boycott of Israel; and Law No. 99, issued in 1953, which bans trade with Israel.

Minister Abu-al-Raghib stressed the great importance of signing the trade agreement between Jordan and Israel, which defines and clarifies the economic relationship between the two countries.

He said that this agreement will be signed in its final form within the next few weeks, noting that there are ongoing negotiations with Israel on some points of this agreement.

In his statements to AL-DUSTUR, the minister revealed for the first time the percentage of customs exemptions on Jordanian and Israeli goods, which the two sides have initially agreed on. He noted that Israel agreed to give some Jordanian goods preferential treatment. This includes giving them benefits represented by customs exemptions which range between 100/50 to 40/30 percent based on the kind of goods and according to specific lists. Meanwhile, he said, Israeli goods will not receive from Jordan more than 10 percent in customs exemptions, in general, because the economies of both countries are inequitable and because the Israeli economy has some potentials not available in the Jordanian economy.

He said that as soon as the trade agreement between Jordan and Israel is signed and then ratified by the Cabinet, businessmen from the private sectors of both countries will be able to start exporting and importing goods on whatever level they desire. This is provided that it takes place in accordance with the equations and frameworks being agreed on, import and export licenses, and so forth.

The minister of industry and trade announced that Jordan and Israel will sign a transport agreement at the same time they sign the trade agreement. He noted that an agricultural agreement is still being discussed and that it will be signed later on.

Asked about how possible it is to establish a free trade zone between Jordan and Israel, Abu-al-Raghib said that this is not an issue at the moment. He said that discussing this issue and the extent of its implementation will require a long time in order to gauge, verify, and examine the level of trade between Jordan and Israel. This is in addition to closely identifying developments and change that could come about to the economies of both countries after they become open to each other. After all this, he added, the picture would be clear and it would be possible to establish a trade zone between Jordan and Israel.

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Speaking about the trade agreement between Jordan and Palestine, the minister said that this agreement is fully established. He noted that amendments to some of its provisions from time to time fall within the framework of developments and changes dictated by joint economic interest and the nature of trade between the two sides.

Foreign Minister Seeks Rapprochement With Kuwait

JN0908120095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that Jordan wants to improve its relations with Kuwait.

In statements published by the Kuwaiti newspapers AL-SIYASAH and ARAB TIMES today, al-Kabariti added that Jordan did not support the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in 1990. Jordan supports all attempts at knowing the fate of the Kuwaitis who were missing in that period.

The foreign minister said that Jordan rejects all forms of invasion, coercion, violence, and annexation regardless of their justifications or objectives. Jordan has never violated the UN resolutions on the Gulf war despite its sympathy with the Iraqi citizens who are subjected to the international sanctions, he added.

Al-Kabariti called for rapprochement on the basis of mutual understanding and common interests and for the avoidance of conflicts. He pointed to the fact that relations have returned to normal between Jordan and most Arab Gulf states on this basis.

Morocco, Oman To Participate in Economic Summit

JN0708194995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a letter from his brother His Majesty King Hasan II of Morocco, expressing thanks to and appreciation for his majesty. He said Morocco accepts his majesty's invitation to take part in the Amman economic summit, adding that Morocco is keen to participate in this conference.

His Majesty King Hasan II said Jordan will provide all the necessary means to render this conference a success thanks to His Majesty King Husayn's wise leadership and Jordan's great experience in preparation and organization.

Responding to a letter His Majesty King Husayn had earlier sent to his brother His Majesty King Hasan II on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, King Hasan II asserted that his country shares with Jordan its concern as expressed by His Majesty King Husayn through his constant contacts with world leaders in various international fora since the beginning of the tragedy.

He said that from the outset, the tragedy of the Bosnian people was at the center of his interest in his capacity as chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

His majesty has also received a letter from his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman expressing Oman's happiness to take part in Amman economic conference.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus also wished this conference success and hoped it would realize the aspired results. His majesty praised the great role undertaken by His Majesty King Husayn to realize a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

His said Jordan's hosting of this economic conference is part of the good efforts aimed at boosting security and stability and achieving prosperity for the region's peoples.

UK Envoy Cited on Efforts To Reduce Debt Burden

JN0708204095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by correspondent Cathy King]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe Sunday said his government will do all it can to reduce Jordan's debt to London prior to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held here in October.

Jordan's remaining debt to the United Kingdom currently stands at JD [Jordanian dinars] 369 million in the form of export credit gurantees, Mr. Hinchcliffe told the Jordan Times.

"We are going to do our best (to remove the burden of debt), but we are not sure if anything can be done before the MENA summit," said Mr. Hinchcliffe.

Britain wrote off around JD 50 million of debt following the signing of the Washington Declaration in July 1994, the ambassador said.

The outstanding debt of JD 369 million arose during the late 1980s.

Bilateral trade increased during that period, but the successive economic slump rendered many Jordanian companies incapable of meeting financial commitments made with British firms. Those companies insured by the Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) recovered their losses from the ECGD, explained Mr. Hinchcliffe.

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The ECGD is a British governmental organisation, therefore debts accrued are repayable to the British government.

Jordan's economic slump resulted from the devaluation of the dinar in 1989 and the aftermath of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis: the international trade embargo on Iraq, the blockade of al-'Aqabah, the influx of around 300,000 returnees and the subsequent loss of remittances and the lapse of trade with Gulf countries.

"Jordan has one of the most debt burdened governments in the world, (owing) about JD 6 billion, whether as loans to be repaid, as export credit guarantees, or to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and others," Mr. Hinchcliffe said.

The problem of debts owed as export credit gurantees, said the ambassador, is that investors' faith in a country's ability to fulfil commitments is lessened. The main objective of the MENA summit is to entice massive investment in the region.

However, former Minister of Finance Sami Gammuh said in January that the IMF recommendation to extend about $53 million in additional credit facilities to the Kingdom was an expression of confidence in Jordan's economic performance.

Mr. Hinchcliffe stated that it must also be remembered that the Paris Club, of which the U.K. is a member, meets annually to discuss debt rescheduling. Debt rescheduling by the Paris Club has been carried out over the past three years, he said, adding that although immediate debt servicing is then stalled, the overhanging debt is a burden to the Kingdom and inhibits development.

"When Mr. Major visited Jordan (in March) he said he would do what he could to relieve the country... in appreciation for the signing of the (Jordan-Israel) peace treaty and to show support for Jordan," Mr. Hinchcliffe noted.

The ambassador said that although Britain would like to follow in the footsteps of the United States, which recently wrote off the Kingdom's debt to Washington, including export credit gurantees, "The ECGD is a governmental organisation that can't show a loss." Therefore, he added, a measure such as this would require a political decision as opposed to an economic one.

"Jordan is not in the league table of poor countries. It is a middle income country," he said, "but the difference between it and other middle income countries is its involvement in the peace process and raised expectations since the signing of the peace treaty."

The options in hand, said the ambassador, include the repurchasing of debt at a lower cost than actual value, known as "debt swap." Debt swap allows for the amount to be repaid to be pumped into developmental projects.

Instead Britain could write off more of the outstanding debt or at worst it could remain with the ECGD which at least levies interest at far cheaper rates than banks, he said.

"We would like to be able to write off more, but we can't go so far," Mr. Hinchcliffe reiterated. "We are trying to do something by the time of the MENA summit."

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Buwayz Blames Israel for Freeze in Peace Talks

NC0808181995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that extending the president's term of office would be an extraordinary measure and would be illegal. He said that the Lebanese will and the people's wishes should be taken into account in the negotiations with Israel. He added: We must give everyone of Lebanese nationality and the expatriates all over the world the right to vote. He noted that because of Israel, 13 negotiating sessions had been empty of substance. It linked the Lebanese-Israeli track to the peace process as a whole.

Minister Buwayz' remarks came during a visit he paid to Tripoli to offer his condolences on the death of the mother of Tawfiq Sultan.

Asked whether Lebanese-Israeli negotiations are still frozen, Minister Buwayz: Yes, to a certain extent, because Israel has refused to discuss Resolution 425 separately from Resolution 242. Ever since it was invited to participate in the negotiations, Lebanon has been saying that it is involved in both resolutions, that is, in Resolution 425—which concerns the liberation of its territories—and in Resolution 242, because it is an indivisible part of the Arab world and is concerned with the problems of the refugees, Jerusalem, regional security, and the economy. We proposed a program to Israel to implement Resolution 425 first and then discuss the peace process as a whole in solidarity with the Arab parties, he said. Israel preferred to wait and thereby emptied 13 sessions of all substance. It put off the issue and linked it to the peace process as a whole. Therefore, it is not Lebanon that is refusing to negotiate but Israel, which has so far refused very bluntly to discuss the implementation of Resolution 425 despite the Lebanese state's guarantee that it will maintain security on the borders if this resolution is implemented.

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UAE's Zayid Visits for 3 Days, Holds Meetings

Al-Asad, Zayid Discuss Peace, Ties

JN0808205795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad and Emirian President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan held three meetings today, one of them closed.

President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Zayid held a meeting at Tishrin Palace. [passage omitted] On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah; Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs; and Mustafa 'Imran, Syria's ambassador in Abu Dhabi.

President Hafiz al-Asad and Emirian President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan held another meeting at the People's Palace this evening. [passage omitted]

This was followed by a closed meeting between the president and His Highness Shaykh Zayid. Talks dealt with the Arab situation, the Middle East situation, the peace process, and relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Bashshar al-Asad Meets Zayid

JN0908103295 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] president, received Dr. Bashshar al-Asad, son of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, at Tishrin Palace in Damascus this morning.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister; Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, representative of the UAE president; Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and members of the delegation accompanying the UAE president.

Al-Asad, Zayid Resume Talks

JN0908103895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], held a closed meeting at Tishrin Palace at noon today.

During this meeting, they completed discussing the issues addressed in their meetings held yesterday, Tuesday [8 August]. These issues pertain to the Arab situation, the developments in the region, the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Press on Visit, Peace Process

JN0908063895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN discusses the strong brotherly ties between Syria and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The paper stresses that UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan's visit to Syria and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad are important in the current Arab circumstances, considering the very complicated political developments, particularly as regards the peace process, which is now standing on a crossroads because of Israel's intransigent positions that seek to entrench occupation.

TISHRIN says: The strong and firm ties of cooperation between Syria and the UAE, promoted by President Hafiz al-Asad and Shaykh Zayid, dictate that coordination must be strengthened and the brotherly march of the two countries be enhanced for the benefit of the Arab nation and to achieve our pan-Arab objectives and advance bilateral ties to serve the two brotherly peoples.

The paper adds: As it welcomes Shaykh Zayid, Syria realizes that adjusting the Arab flaw and rectifying the Arab march can only be achieved by expanding brotherly cooperation between the Arab brothers and strengthening and developing the positive and constructive ties among the citizens of the one Arab nation to help build the Arab future on the basis of justice and right.

TISHRIN concludes: The Syrian-UAE relations were strengthened thanks to the major contribution of the president and leaders in both countries to adjust the Arab situation and strengthen its pillars to achieve the Arab glory and inter-Arab interests.

On the same subject, AL-BA'TH says: The strong relationship between Syria and the UAE, and more specifically between the two pan-Arab leaders, President Hafiz al-Asad and Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, falls within the framework of a principled understanding to support the pan-Arab cause, not to relinquish the Arab rights, and not to give Israel a passport to enter deep into the Arab land as long as it occupies our land.

AL-BA'TH adds: The UAE has a significant weight on Arab and Gulf levels and influential positions in the

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world. It, therefore, understands the pan-Arab needs of the Syrian position. It is confident about the pioneering role fulfilled by Syria to defend the rights and those who own them. On the basis of this understanding, Syria believes that keenness to preserve the pan-Arab rights requires a unified Arab stand to confront Israel and its schemes, which target the land, wealth, heritage, and individual in the Arab region.

AL-BA'TH points out that Israel's obstruction of the peace process will not stop Syria's endeavor to achieve that peace, but not at the expense of a single grain of Arab soil or any of the established Arab rights.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH urges the Arabs, who supported the Madrid Conference on the basis of the land-for-peace formula, to support Syria and its position by creating the appropriate conditions to escalate the world pressure against Israel and, also, to shape an Arab position that does not bargain over rights, relinquish any of these rights, or leave a single window open for Israel to enter into the Arab house.

Radio: Israel's Peace Maneuvers 'Will Not Pay'

JN0808152295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: No one can cast doubt on the seriousness of the Syrian efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. Syria has time and again salvaged the peace process from collapse. It has genuinely cooperated with the U.S. Administration and has been very positive toward European initiatives in this regard. Had it not been for Syria, it would not have been possible to convene the Madrid conference.

Syria has been patient vis-a-vis Israel's intransigence and illusive policy throughout three years in Washington. Syria has twice delegated the chief of staff of its army to the military talks. It has also made positive, balanced, and objective proposals that would provide peace and security for all. However, the problem lies in Israel and in the policy of its rulers — a policy based on procrastination, evading the requirements of a just peace, marginalizing basic issues, and magnifying marginal issues.

Despite the clarity of the Syrian position toward the establishment of a comprehensive and full peace and commitment to its requirements, Israel continued to adopt a vague stand vis-a-vis Syria's fundamental demand for full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines, removal of occupation, and disavowal of the aggressive and expansionist trend.

It is known that Israel's rulers falsify and misrepresent facts. Their latest attempt to hold Syria responsible for the stalled peace talks on the Syrian track falls within this framework. They employed military talks — which were originally held to work out equitable and even [mutakafi'ah wa muta'adilah] security arrangement on both sides of the 4 June lines — to consecrate their occupation of a part of the Golan and to emphasize their penchant for domination and aggression under the cover of a ground surveillance station. It should be noted that the agreement on the broad concepts of security reached by the U.S. Administration provides for full security equitability [takafu'].

Syria was surprised at the impossible Israeli demand which encroaches on its sovereignty and dignity. Syria made it clear that military talks were held to work out equitable arrangements that would pave the way for full Israeli withdrawal beyond 4 June lines and not to violate Syria's security, perpetuate occupation, and undermine the formulae of a just and honorable peace, which maintains dignity and is acceptable to the masses of the Syrian people.

Israel is responsible for the failure of military talks and for the logjam in the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Neither Syria nor Lebanon can approve of the continuation of occupation, on even a part of their lands, regardless of the title such occupation may have. Security Council resolutions in this regard are clear and frank. The U.S. initiative, which ushered in the Madrid conference, proceeded from the land-for-peace principle. If Israel has succeeded in deviating the peace process from its goals on the other tracks, Syria and Lebanon fully adhere to the foundations of this process and clearly announce that there can be no peace without the return of all the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Any future security arrangements should be based on equitability and evenness. Therefore, Israel's current maneuvers — which aim to blackmail Syria and drag it to where it and its pan-Arab position refuse to be — will not pay. In its quest for just peace, Syria proceeds from UN resolutions and from an unwavering belief in the need to restore all the land and to guarantee right, dignity, and security for all.

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Afghanistan

Pakistan Confirms Taleban Holds Armed Russian Plane

BK0908101595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0930 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Aug 9 (AFP) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali confirmed Wednesday [8 August] that a Russian plane loaded with ammunition and weapons was in the custody of the Afghan Taleban religious movement at Qandahar in southern Afghanistan.

The "huge" transport plane bound for Kabul — which Pakistani newspapers earlier said was an Ilyushin-76 — was carrying "30 tonnes" of small arms, ammunition and anti-aircraft weapons, said Ali, who was in Qandahar last Saturday.

The minister, just back from a tour of Afghanistan, had seen the plane which was "forced" to land last week by Taleban jet fighters as well as its Russian crew, he said at a news conference.

He added that two Russian planes had been initially forced down by the Taleban, but one carried only civilian cargo and was allowed to leave for its destination, Jalalabad, an eastern Afghan city, near the Pakistan border.

The crew of the detained military plane had told Pakistani journalists that their aircraft had flown from Russia to Albania and then India before flying to Afghanistan from Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, the minister said.

Ali said the crew were in "very bad" condition, sitting in "scorching sun," and had requested the Taleban to shift them to a "comfortable" place somewhere else where they would not be "harassed".

He added the crew deserved "mercy and sympathy."

On Monday, a Pakistani newspaper quoted Qandahar's Taleban mayor as saying the arms-carrying plane was a "proof" that Russia and India were "interfering" in Afghan affairs by supporting Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's government.

Islamic Army Captures Areas, Weapons in Operation

LD0808200695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The area of Bajgah and the surrounding areas in Khenjan and Andrab districts have been captured by the Islamic Army forces. Quoting a source in the armed forces, BAKHTAR reported that in a successful operation this morning the Islamic Army forces cleared Bajgah, Dahan-e Bajgah, and the surrounding areas as well as the Sangi Militia Security Post. In the course of this operation Commander Sayd Abdollah and 60 of his men have been captured by the Islamic Army, while commander Gholam Sakhi and seven of his men were killed. The militia suffered heavy loss of life during the operation and left a number of their dead on the battlefield. The Islamic Army captured a quantity of the enemy's light and heavy weapons. The report says that one mojahedin was martyred and two others injured. Dostam's commanders, Brigadiers Rabbani, Framorz, Mohebollah, and Nazif defected to Islamic rule along with all their armed men. The defecters were armed with heavy and light weapons.

A report from Samangan Province says that the upper part of Qal'eh-ye Sarkari Market was captured today by the mojahedin. The Islamic Army in coordination with the Islamic Revolutionary Movement and Islamic Unity Party captured the Pakmak and Azmak hills last night. In the course of today's operation, the mojahedin and the Islamic Army captured the areas of Tangi Shekha, Koh-e Cheldokhtaran, Chekha, and Koh-e Azhghandi. Similarly Tamki Cave, the Hekmatyar Brigade base and an important enemy position, was captured by Hassan's mojahedin. Dozens of the enemy were killed during the clearing-up operation against the militia and members of the Nasr band and a quantity of their arms and ammunition was captured. The report says that 40 members of Hekmatyar's party and 50 members of Nasr defected to the mojahedin in the upper market in Qah'eh-ye Sarkari.

According to another report, the Islamic Army made significant advances today in Sangcharak District, Jowzjan Province. The areas around Band-e Qodo, Band-e Qashqa, and a hill near Charokh were cleared of the Dostam militia. During this operation the mojahedin killed a number of militia and took 11 prisoners.

India

Official, Press Address U.S. Arms to Pakistan

Envoy Asks U.S. Senators To Oppose Move

BK0508105295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has reiterated its opposition to the U.S. decision to deliver arms to Pakistan by amending the Pressler Law. The Indian ambassador to the United States, Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, has written to the U.S. senators asking them to oppose this amendment. He pointed out that this step can damage Indo-U.S. relations. Mr. Ray added that Washington

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should see that no such step should be taken at a time when Indo-U.S. relations are improving.

The U.S. proposal, currently under discussion, seeks to make a one time exception in the Pressler Amendment to deliver arms to Pakistan. Senator Larry Pressler is also against the transfer of arms to Pakistan. He has written to Ms. Benazir Bhutto asking her to take some concrete steps toward denuclearization, a condition for receiving arms supply from America.

Daily Warns of 'Devestating War'

BK0408123695 Varanasi AJ in Hindi 20 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Threat to India's Security"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan's massive purchase of arms and equipment in the recent past is likely to create dangers for India's security. On the one hand, U.S. President Bill Clinton has been stressing the need to sign of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but on the other he is trying to sell lethal weapons to Pakistan that are even more dangerous than the fleet of F-16 aircraft. India has already voiced its concern over the M-11 missiles Pakistan purchased from China recently. Now, by giving naval equipment and weapons worth millions of dollars to Islamabad, the Clinton administration is equipping Pakistan with modern and sophisticated arms and equipment that may provide it with the capability to challenge India. Earlier, in 1964-65, the United Stated provided a large number of "Saberjet" planes and Patton tanks to Pakistan. When New Delhi protested to Washington about these supplies, the United States gave assurances that the arms and equipment would not be used against India. Then, in an utter breach of trust, Pakistan violated that commitment and launched an aggression against India in 1965. The United States watched this silently and did not prevent Pakistan from using these weapons, thereby negating its own commitment to India. Now the United States is once again moving to supply a large quantity of the most sophisticated lethal weapons to Pakistan, creating the danger of nuclear war in the Indian subcontinent.

This imminent danger is real, not imaginary. The arms and equipment the U.S. President wants to sell to Pakistan and for which he has sought congressional approval are more dangerous than the F- 16 aircraft that had created the threat of a nuclear war. The naval equipment and weapons he currently wants to sell to Pakistan also have the potential to trigger a nuclear war. The arms and equipment the United States wants to sell to Pakistan include three submarines, PC aircraft, 28 Harpoon missiles, 260 AIS [as transliterated], nine L [as transliterated] missiles, and engines and other equipment for the existing fleet of F-16 aircraft. There is no doubt that these naval weapons will pose a serious threat to Indian security. Senator Larry Pressler has strongly criticized the Clinton administration's move in this direction, saying he is shocked by the fact that the President is supplying weapons to Pakistan that can be used to modernize and upgrade the F-16 aircraft already in Pakistan's possession. Pressler has categorically stated that the U.S. move will cause instability in South Asia.

Upon his return from a foreign tour, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said that India will have to make preparations to counter the threat to its security posed by Pakistan's massive purchase of lethal weapons and military equipment. Mukherjee is right when he says that because Pakistan is increasing its military might, India is left with no option but to make matching arrangements. The external affairs minister has expressed profound concern over this development and conveyed his concerns to the United States and China, but without any visible results. The United States is eager to supply arms worth $320 million to Pakistan by waiving the Pressler Amendment. This may create the danger of a nuclear holocaust in the Indian subcontinent. Whenever Pakistan has received a massive supply of arms and equipment, it has launched an aggression against India. The weapons already supplied or to be supplied to Pakistan by the United States and China may spark a devastating war in the Indian subcontinent in the near future. As the United States is the biggest arms merchant in the world and the arms trade forms the basic pillar of its economy, it keeps its own interests foremost in mind and does not pay attention to any specific situations that arise in international politics. The United States will be solely responsible for the consequences of the inducement Pakistan will receive to attack India after it is supplied with arms and equipment following the waiver of the Pressler Amendment.

Paper Assails U.S. Move

BK0808134195 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 1 Aug 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan and the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has proposed selling missiles to Pakistan. The proposal to provide Pakistan with these deadly weapons has been made as an alternative to the F-16 aircraft. It is well-known that six years ago, the government of Pakistan paid nearly $700 million to the United States to buy the most modern U.S. fighter aircraft. However, it could not approve the deal with Pakistan due to restrictions posed by the Pressler Amendment. The amendment sponsored by Republican Senator Larry Pressler bars Pakistan or any other

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country pursuing a nuclear weapon production program from receiving U.S. weapons unless it abandons the program. The United States had to face difficulties as Pakistan refused to repeal its nuclear program. Pakistan's friends, meanwhile, continued pressing the U.S. Administration and finding out various ways to evade the Pressler Amendment and supply to Pakistan the 28 F-16 bombers it wanted. Having failed in that attempt, a proposal has now been made to hand over to Pakistan a stockpile of missiles of varying ranges, antisubmarine aircraft, heavy artillery, arms and ammunition and explosives as a substitute for the F-16's. Though not as devastating as the F-16's, the firepower of these U.S. weapons cannot be ignored either. Besides others, Larry Pressler is among those who objected to the latest U.S. arms aid to Pakistan.

Chances that his objection will withstand the pressure are very thin. The reason is that after the end of the Cold War and Russia's degradation from the superpower status, the U.S. Administration, which habitually concerned with seeing itself as the boss of the unipolar world, and U.S. politicians have rediscovered Pakistan's strategic importance in South Asia. They believe that in the distant future, Russia, China, India and Iran might jointly constitute an axis that will by then gain the strength and influence to economically and militarily counter the United States. If Pakistan becomes a reliable and steady U.S. ally, then it will be helpful in ensuring that the Islamic countries, including Iran, maintain a neutral stance. Also, due to Pakistan's geographical proximity, it will be easy for the United States to keep an watch over India, China and Russia. Based on this theory, the pro- Pakistan politicians in the United States are out to arm Pakistan. Dr. Henry Kissinger, secretary of state under former U.S. President Richard Nixon, has recently been touting another theory, which has further enhanced Pakistan's importance to the U.S. Administration. Poiting to the way officials of the East India Company established rule over the entire South Asian region by turning India into a regional imperialist power, Kissinger said that their successors — India's current bureaucrats and politicians — are today dreaming of usurping the small neighboring nations in the same fashion by transforming India into an imperialist state. Kissinger's theory is absurd. Being a vast economic and military force in South Asia, if India wants to see this region under its influence, then there is no reason why the United States should, in principle, have any objection to it, as the United States itself considers the whole western coast of the Atlantic as its area of influence and practically the whole world as its backyard. If India, due to its vast territory, geographical location, and strength and capability manages to win due regard from its neighbors, then there is nothing unusual in it. However, this is being cited as a justification for arming Pakistan.

It is apprehended that the strategy conceived by the bosses of the U.S. Administration on the basis of an imaginary scenario they laid out about the future might hamper the configuration of power in the Indian subcontinent. The apprehension might soon lead to an unhealthy arms race in the Indian Subcontinent. India will have to upgrade its missile program to deal with the Pakistani armed forces equipped with most modern and devastating U.S. missiles. The United States, on the one hand. is asking India to suspend its missile program, while, on the other, it is supplying missiles to Pakistan. This dual policy cannot be allowed to continue. At least, India does not need to respect this policy. India had to fight three full-fledged wars with Pakistan. Pakistani military intelligence agency — the Inter Service Intelligence — is still providing arms and training to secessionists in Kashmir. Indian security forces have been compelled to engage in a thorough war against the pro- Pakistan secessionists in the Kashmir Valley. A boost to Pakistan's arms buildup means an increase in the threat to India's solidarity and territorial integrity. This is not a fiction but a fact authenticated by experience. The U.S. objection to India's efforts to acquire cryogenic rocket technology becomes groundless when the United States itself is going to supply missiles and antisubmarine aircraft to Pakistan. Pakistan is acquiring missiles from China as well. It is feared that these missiles will have the capacity to carry Pakistan's nuclear warheads to their targets. India cannot remain complacent to Pakistan's current arms buildup.

'Friendly Countries' Approached on M-11 Missile

BK3107122395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is in touch with friendly countries, including members of the UN Security Council, on supply of M-11 missiles by China to Pakistan. The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, told the Lok Sabha in a written reply that New Delhi is concerned about Islamabad's efforts to acquire weapons beyond its legitimate defense requirements. He said the national security situation of the country remains constantly under careful review and the government is committed to taking all necessary measures for safeguarding national interests. Mr. Mukherji was replying to the questions by Mr. Dutta Meghe of Congress-I and Mr. Bhogendra Jha of CPI [Communist Party of India].

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Decision Reached To Open Gaza 'Interest Office'

BK0108052795 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has decided to open an Interest Office in the Palestine self-rule area of the Gaza strip. The PLO leader, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, has welcomed India's decision to open the office. Mr. 'Arafat described the measure as a great step which would serve the best interest of the two sides. India is the first Asian country to open such an office in that area.

Russia, Germany To Back Security Council Seat Claim

BK0708095095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia has assured India of its support for a permanent seat in the Security Council. Replying to a supplementary question in the Lok Sabha today, the external affairs minister said the Russian Federation Government has assured India that it will not deviate from the earlier policy of the erstwhile USSR, giving top priority to friendship with India. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said that the first cryogenic engine will be delivered to India by the end of next year. He said the trade relations between the two countries, which had nosedived following the disintegration of the USSR, have again started picking up and it will touch 5 billion rupees this year.

Germany has also supported India's claim for a permanent seat in the Security Council. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Pranab Muherjee said this was conveyed during his visit to Germany last month. He said India welcomes the support from an important member of the European Union and the developed world. Germany has also supported India's stand that Kashmir is an integral part of India.

In another reply, Mr. Mukherjee said India has decided to open its mission in Palestine.

Radio Justifies Claim to Security Council Seat

BK0808064895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Aug 95

[Commentary by Professor M.S. Rajan of the Jawaharlal Nehru University]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is good to know from the minister for external affairs that Russia has recently reiterated its support for India's claim for the permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Ever since the question of expanding the membership of the Security Council, especially of the permanent membership became a public issue in recent years, India has been mentioned as one of the five probables, that is apart from Germany and Japan. So far, only Russia among the present permanent members has officially backed India's case. The others are noncommitted. Among many other states, India has received considerable backing. These now include Germany and Japan — themselves candidates for the permanent membership.

India's case is based on a variety of factors. It has been a founder member of the United Nations, as of its predecessor the League of Nations, even while it was not yet independent then. At the foundation conference of the United Nations at San Francisco in April-June 1945, some states did suggest that India should be made a permanent member, but in vain. However, since independence India has been elected for about six times as a nonpermanent member, largely because of its contribution in a variety of fields in the functioning of the world organization. Even if Japan is likely to be made an additional permanent member, Asia as well as developing countries would be underrepresented. India has been for all the five decades of the United Nations a crusader for disarmament, decolonization, racial equality — especially in the erstwhile Apartheid South Africa, and international assistance to developing countries. Ever since peacekeeping operations came into existence, New Delhi has been a major participant in most of these operations. Support to and strengthening of the United Nations has been a major objective of India's foreign policy since independence. For years it has been a leading spokesman for the Third World nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and all the causes these groups have stood for. Many distinguished Indians have served the world organization in a variety of capacities. As early as 1954, the leader of the Indian delegation, Vijayalakshmi Pandit, was president of the UN General Assembly. Indeed, India can be proud of its role in upholding the principles of the UN Charter. It would be a deserving recognition of India's contribution in the 50th anniversary of the United Nations if it is made a permanent member of the Security Council.

Rao Returns From 'Very Useful' Malaysian Visit

BK0508140195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has described his Malaysian visit as very useful. Talking to newspersons on board the Air India plane while returning home this afternoon from Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Narasimha Rao said his visit will give meaningful impetus to the ties between the two countries in various fields. He said the agreements and MoUs [memorandum of understanding] signed during the current visit will provide much-needed fillip to the economic and com-

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mercial ties between the two countries. Mr. Rao said that he was very much impressed by the rural housing technology in Malaysia and felt that the same technology is needed in India for mass housing program.

The prime minister has since arrived in New Delhi.

Official Comments on Ties, Visit

BK0608161895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Indian and Malaysian industrialists are to promote joint ventures in third countries. They have identified Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam for immediate implementation. The joint ventures were discussed at a meeting of 12 heads of Indian missions in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Mr. Rahul Bajaj represented Indian industrialists at the meeting.

Later, the Indian high commissioner in Kuala Lumpur, Mr. V.K. Nambiar, told newsmen that the prime minister's visit has opened up new dimensions in the Indo-Malaysian ties. The prime minister met the Malaysian intellectuals and writers on the last day of his visit yesterday. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao emphasized the need for people to people interaction between the two countries in particular and the neighboring countries in general so that the ties developed are not unidimensional but durable.

Official Said Ready for Legal Battle Over Enron

BK0808161195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashtra deputy chief minister, Mr. Gopinath Munde, has said that his government is ready to take on the Enron Power Corporation in the legal battle over the scrapping of the 2,015 megawatt power project at Dabhol. Talking to reporters at Pune today, Mr. Munde said the government will plead against the compensation claim of the corporation, as according to him the company submitted misleading documents while signing the agreement with the state electricity board.

The former Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has asserted that there was no wrong dealing involved in the Enron agreement. Addressing a gathering at Bombay today, Mr. Pawar asked the state government to order an inquiry into the deal. He claimed that his government brought in 1 lakh crore rupees in foreign investment in the state in the last three years.

Protesters Denounce Cancellation of Enron Deal

BK0808132695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1246 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bombay, Aug 8 (AFP) — Tens of thousands of industrial and farm workers marched here Tuesday [8 August] to protest last week's scrapping of a 2.8-billion-dollar power project by Maharashtra's nationalist Hindu government, witnesses said.

The marchers led by the western state's former chief minister Sharad Pawar, whose Congress (I) party government signed the deal with the Houston-based Enron Corp., to set up India's largest private power plant in the port of Dabhol, 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of Bombay.

The protesters, carrying banners and placards marched through downtown Bombay — India's commercial hub — chanting slogans against Thursday's spiking of the 2,015-megawatt project, they said in Bombay.

The protesters said the cancellation would trigger huge power shortages and lead to unemployment in Maharashtra, India's most industrialised state of which Bombay is the capital.

"There was nothing illegal in the Enron deal, but by cancelling it you have made the future of our youth bleak," said the banners of the protesters.

"No electricity, no progress," they added.

Pawar, who gave Enron the green light when his Congress (I) party was in power here, said the deal's death could "doom" industrial and agricultural growth in the western coastal state.

Pawar said Maharashtra's nationalist government should offer proof to back up its allegations of kickbacks into the Enron power deal.

"If anybody has taken money they should be publicly hanged. (But now) jobs will be lost, industries will move out due to shortage of electricity," the Congress politician told the protesters.

Enron has also denied paying kickbacks to politicians of Pawar's government to clinch the deal, the single largest foreign investment in India since it opened the country's enormous market to overseas capital four years ago.

Radio Reports on 'Militants' Killed in Kashmir

BK0808161595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces shot dead two top Harkatul Ansar militants in Doda District of Jammu region today. UNI, quoting a

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Defense Ministry spokesman in Jammu, said the killed militants were trying to disrupt the machail yatra [pilgrimage]. The report said that the security forces, on a specific tip-off, raided Kalu village and surrounded the militants' hideout. The militants fired upon the security forces, and in the encounter that ensued two top militants were killed and four injured. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of the encounter.

Rao Lauds Scientists; Satellites To Be Launched

BK0308161795 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has complimented scientists on their unique success in indigenously developing liquid propulsion systems for the prestigious GSLV — the Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle — to be launched by the end of the century. In a message to the chairman of the Space Commission and ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization], Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao has said it is a matter of great satisfaction.

Meanwhile, ISRO has announced two major satellite launches before the year end. INSAT-2C will be launched by an Ariane launcher by the end of November this year and IRS-1C by a Russian (Molniga) rocket by the end of this year.

Iran

Commentary on Clinton 'Headaches' Over Republicans

LD0608125995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0956 GMT 6 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are apparently no limits to U.S. President Bill Clinton's headaches concerning that country's legislative assemblies, which are controlled by the Republicans. Only in the past two weeks, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate adopted three bills which Clinton has announced he will veto. A proposal to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia, one on small-scale nuclear tests, and another on antimissile defense are some of the initiatives which face the Clinton presidency with difficulties and exacerbate the tension between the Republican and Democrat Parties.

The Republicans describe the Democrats' foreign policy as lacking in political foresight, and are intent on adopting proposals aimed at winning over public opinion by presenting an aggressive image of U.S. foreign policy in order to bring about their victory in the next elections. Republicans, led by Gingrich, the controversial personality and speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, inspired by Reagan's policies in the 80's, have targeted all aspects of Clinton's foreign policy. In the latest of such moves, the U.S. Senate, which is controlled by the Republicans, has approved a plan costing $265 billion which, if implemented, will violate the 1972 agreement on countering antiballistic missiles.

According to the SALT I agreement, signed by the United States and the former Soviet Union at the height of the era of detente, the two sides agreed to limit or destroy antiballistic missiles. According to that agreement, each of the two countries has the right to deploy one antiballistic missile site, whereas according to the recent Senate decision the Defense Department will be required to deploy antiballistic missiles in several sites throughout the United States. That in itself is tantamount to a unilateral cancelation of the 1972 accord, unless new talks are initiated between Moscow and Washington and the two sides come to new agreements. If that does not come about, there will be a new arms race, and the Russian parliament will shelve ratification of Salt-II. Thus, we could see the realization of what Yeltsin warned about last year when he spoke of a Cold Peace.

Report Views New 'Strategy' With Hamas, Hizballah

JN0808195095 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 Aug 95 pp 25-27

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The suicide operation carried out by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] last week near Tel Aviv has dealt a blow to the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations. The operation also undermined efforts to open a dialogue between a moderate political current in Hamas and the Palestinian Authority. Observers agree that what happened in Ramat Gan heralds a new Iranian strategy to cope with the post-Syrian-Israeli agreement stage. This will be done by finding an alternative to Hizballah and moving the extremist fundamentalist front from Lebanon to Palestine. How did Iran succeed in attracting Hamas and the [Islamic] Jihad? How will Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] react to protect the negotiations that seek to expand self-rule? [passage omitted]

An official close to 'Arafat says the suicide operation had two objectives: First, to freeze the negotiations. Second, and more importantly, to strike at the pragmatic current within Hamas and strengthen the current that is directly linked with Iran and Hizballah in Lebanon.

Elaborating on the Palestinian leadership's view, the Palestinian official says: Iran has decided to throw all

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its weight in the Palestinian arena, stemming from a general view that it should adapt to the results of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. Iranian President 'Ali Akbar-Hashemi Rafsanjani has acknowledged that a Syrian-Israeli agreement is inevitable and that it is difficult to stop the peace process. The Iranian president said that Iran could accept an agreement between Syria and Israel if the agreement is satisfactory to Damascus. He asserted that Tehran will welcome such development. This statement is an acceptance of an established fact. The Iranian leadership, which is aware of the details of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, knows that a strategic relationship with Syria could not rid it of its isolation in the region.

Despite the fact that Iran is aware of its isolation and its acceptance of the established facts, there are indications that the Iranian leadership will not stand idle. Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian deputy foreign minister, has said that the peace agreements will not change the essence of "Islamic resistance", and more specifically the essence of Palestinian resistance. In the same context, Iran's allies in Lebanon have started to draw the features of the next stage. Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, former secretary general of Hizballah, said that nothing can stop the peace process, but the Islamic resistance will be stronger and there will be a greater need for it after signing peace agreements.

In a more direct statement that underscores the importance of the extremist fundamentalist Palestinian forces to Iran and its allies in Lebanon, Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of Hizballah, said: The situation of Hamas and the Jihad is better than that of Hizballah because the two movements are present inside the territories, but the activities of Hizballah cannot be moved to another front.

Nasrallah's statement reveals the future of the relationship between Iran and Hizballah on the one hand and Iran and Hamas and the Jihad on the other. Meanwhile, a Palestinian official says: To understand what is happening in the Palestinian arena, especially regarding the relationship of the extremist fundamentalists with the Palestinian Authority, one should observe what is happening in Lebanon, especially how Iran views its role after a peace agreement is signed between Damascus and Tel Aviv.

Explaining Iran's position, this official says: Tehran is convinced that Syria is going ahead with the peace negotiations and is aware of the need to preserve its good relations with Damascus. Tehran, therefore, has recently reluctantly subscribed to Syria's view of Hizballah's future. Damascus suggested that once a peace agreement is signed with Israel and a request is made to halt the Islamic resistance, Hizballah must turn into a parliamentary party and must renounce armed resistance, arguing that such a transformation does not harm the party and that it will increase its influence on the Lebanese political scene.

However, since Tehran agreed to Damascus's proposals and Hizballah started to prepare for its transformation to a parliamentary political party, the Iranian leadership began to strengthen its ties with fundamentalist Palestinian movements on the basis that the peace process will weaken its position. Also, in order to avoid complete isolation, Iran must have a pressure card in the peace process.

Stemming from this, Iran began to move in two directions. First, it began to put strong pressure on Hamas to prevent it from joining the groupings of the Palestinian opposition, such as the Palestinian Grouping, led by Bassam al-Shak'ah, and the Palestinian Democratic Grouping. Both groupings are based in Damascus. The Iranian pressure on Hamas sought to keep Hamas free from the influence of Damascus. The second Iranian strategy focused on the need to create an organic relationship between Hamas and the Jihad on the one hand and Hizballah in Lebanon on the other on the basis of common future objectives.

Tehran began to carry out its plan quickly. It succeeded in putting pressure on Hamas to prevent it from joining the Damascus- based opposition. It also began to apply pressure to prevent a Hamas current from turning into a political party that will take part in the elections and institutions as part of a relationship with the Palestinian National Authority. The pressure led to splits within Hamas, caused by the debates about the future relationship with the Palestinian Authority and the need to form a political party. The Lebanon-based Hizballah played a role in creating these splits, since it is looking for a direct organic relationship with a party inside Hamas.

Thus, Hamas was divided into three currents. The first, which began to approach the Palestinian Authority, is represented by Khadr Muhjiz, who was removed from the movement's organizational structure. Muhjiz is thinking of forming a party on the basis of the relationship with the Palestinian Authority. Close to Muhjiz is 'Imad al-Faluji, who wants to reach an understanding with 'Arafat. The second current is represented by Abu-Samih [not further identified] and Mahmud al-Zahhar, who took part in negotiations with the Palestinian Authority. This current is called the pragmatic current and includes some of the cadres of 'Izz-al-Din al- Qassam, and they are more loyal to the political leadership. There is also the armed current which favors armed action away from the stands of the political leadership.

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This current is close to the hard-line leadership abroad, represented in Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah and Abu-Muhammad Mustafa.

It is observed that the first and second currents have something in common with the so-called internal current, which comprises many personalities that want to maintain the movement's independence from outside influence. This current is historically associated with the special relationship between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, contrary to the current that is historically associated with Jordan and which represents the current abroad and the hard-line current which coordinates with the Islamic Jihad inside the territories and which is linked with Hizballah and Iran.

A Palestinian official says the hard-line current is the one directly responsible for the bombings, and is organically linked to Iran and the forces that support it in the region. This current is considered a card which Tehran thinks will allow it to have a seat on the train of peace, as President 'Arafat pointed out.

The Palestinian official thus asserts that the bus blast heralds the beginning of the crystallization of an Iranian front in the Islamic and Palestinian arenas that has a presence in Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine. Iran has tried to prevent the eruption of differences within Hamas in order to use the entire movement according to its strategic plan. In this context, Hasan al-Turabi played an important role. He tried to mediate between 'Arafat and Hamas only to freeze 'Arafat's plan to strike at the extremist forces. Tehran has finally decided to trigger conflicts within Hamas. The bomb, according to the same official, is a political bomb inside the movement. The evidence of this is the leadership's silence on an operation that heralded a real split.

How will the Palestinian president deal with these developments? Will he hasten to approach the pragmatic current within Hamas? This is what several officials expect. But the Palestinian leadership is unanimous that success in facing Tehran ultimately depends on Washington's ability to expedite the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, so that Iran will not be able to carry out its scheme and rid itself of its isolation if it succeeds in moving the Hizballah front from Lebanon to Palestine.

Ambassador Views Bosnian History, 'Criminal Serbs'

LD0808210295 Tehran IRNA in English 1916 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 8 (IRNA) — Bosnian Ambassador to Tehran, Omar Bahman, on Tuesday [8 August] visited the fifth Iran tourism exhibition and expressed hope that soon the people of Bosnia would triumph in their defense against Serb aggression and would later have a cultural exhibition in their homeland.

He said the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina had an age-old history and historical monuments, the bulk of which have been already ruined by the criminal Serbs.

The Bosnian ambassador said that what is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina today can serve as a lesson to other countries especially Muslim nations.

August 6 had been declared the day of solidarity with the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ugandan Minister's Official Visit Reported, Viewed

Arrives for Cooperation Talks

LD0708110195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ugandan Prime Minister Kintu Musoke arrived in Tehran this morning and was met by First Vice President Hasan Habibi. Musoke is on a five-day visit to Iran.

After his arrival, the Ugandan prime minister said that the preliminary steps for expanding relations between Uganda and Iran were prepared during the visit made by the president of Uganda to Iran in 1369 [1990] and since then, a lot of effort has been made to fulfill the agreements reached and increase cooperation between the two countries. This trip is within the context of following up these same efforts.

Habibi, for his part, said: Expansion of relations and cooperation with African countries are among the important principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, and a lot of effort has been made in this connection since the victory of the Islamic revolution.

The first vice president referred to Uganda's special position in the African continent and said: Bearing in mind the latest developments in the world, the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to cooperate with countries such as Uganda, in all fields, including international and regional issues.

Addresses Peace Efforts, Other Issues

LD0808121595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In two hours of talks, First Vice President Habibi and Ugandan Prime Minister Kintu Musoke discussed the expansion of bilateral ties, regional and international issues, as well as other matters of mutual interest and practical ways of expanding cooperation even further,

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At the talks, the Ugandan prime minister referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's position in the region and, describing Iran's economic advances during recent years as impressive, he added: Uganda believes that it must strengthen its cooperation with Iran in all circumstances.

Mr. Musoke expressed gratitude for Iran's efforts to consolidate world peace, especially in the Balkans, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, and said: The steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to resolve regional and international crises enjoy the full support of Uganda. We believe that the United Nations must stand up to Serbian aggression and that the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] must also take more serious and practical measures to support the people of Bosnia.

For his part, Mr. Habibi referred at the meeting to the historical record of ties between Iran and Uganda, and described the relations and cooperation between the two countries in international circles and in the OIC as good. He added: African nations — as powerful nations which possess rich resources — must exploit their capabilities to bring about construction, progress, and development in their countries so that they may obtain an appropriate position in the new world.

The first vice president stressed the need for the OIC and the Nonaligned Movement to become more active in seriously confronting the savage attacks of the Serbs on the rights of the wronged and defenseless people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said: In view of the developments in the world, we must expand our bilateral and regional ties in order to increase our cooperation and coordination toward playing a more active part in the international order.

Thanks Minister for Construction Help

LD0808204395 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 8 (IRNA) — Visiting Ugandan Prime Minister Kintu Musoke here today thanked the Minister of Construction Jihad Mohammad Foruzesh for the development services successfuly undertaken by the personnel of the Iranian Ministry in Uganda.

He said in the future his government would rely on the services of the Construction Jihad of Iran more than it had done before.

Foruzesh returned the appreciation of the Ugandan prime minister saying his ministry had successfully carried out development projects in the African continent in the area of power engineering, water supply, health, welfare, natural resources and woodlands, vaccine preparation for humans and animals, building of silos, irrigation and drainage and development of small industries.

The prime minister of Uganda is in Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi.

Iran's Construction Jihad Ministry is helping several African and Asian countries in carrying out development projects.

Expresses Interest in Industrial Ties

LD0808220995 Tehran IRNA in English 2025 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 8 (IRNA) — The Prime Minister of Uganda, Kintu Musoke, met Iranian Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh here today and told him that his government was interested in developing technical and industrial relations with Iran.

Ne'matzadeh welcoming the proposal said Iran's industrial exports last year totalled dlrs 1.5 billion, a 45 percent rise compared to the year before.

He told the Ugandan prime minister that Iran was ready to cooperate with Uganda in the area of machine building, textiles, leather industries, automotive manufacturing, and new industries engineering.

Views Regional Issues With Rafsanjani

LD0908115195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received visiting Ugandan Prime Minister Kintu Musoke. In the course of this meeting Mr. Musoke presented a report on the outcome of his talks with our country's officials in Tehran and said: Iran and Uganda share views on many bilateral, regional, and international issues, and the government and the people of Uganda would like to expand ties with Iran.

The Ugandan prime minister added: In view of Iran's geographical location, which makes it a transit route between Africa and the Central Asian countries, we would like to establish links and economic cooperation with these countries through Iran, in addition to expanding our own bilateral economic and commercial relations.

Referring to the importance of Iran's role in the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], he asked that the OIC should make a comprehensive decision to stop the tyranny against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At this meeting, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed concern over the plight of the people in some African countries, including Rwanda, Burundi, and Somalia. He also expressed concern at the existing

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tension between Egypt and Sudan and described it as an issue which undermines regional peace and stability.

Stressing the need for greater activity by the OIC to end regional disputes, the president announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to help the OIC to resolve some of the problems faced by the countries in this continent.

The president added: One of the obstacles to the expansion of ties and trade between Asia and Africa is the lack of direct air and sea routes between the two continents. He announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to establish air routes between Iran and Africa.

Commentary Addresses Visit

LD0708123395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0954 GMT 7 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Greetings once again dear listeners. Let me draw your attention to today's political commentaries.

As you heard in the bulletin, the Ugandan Prime Minister Kintu Musoke arrived in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking delegation this morning and was welcomed officially by the first vice president. The consolidation of bilateral ties and following up previous agreements between Iran and Uganda are among the aims of the Ugandan prime minister during his five-day visit to Tehran.

It should, of course, be said that before this, too, the two countries' officials had signed certain letters of understanding in economic and cultural fields and had laid the groundwork for the expansion of bilateral relations.

In view of its geographical situation, as well as its good climate, Uganda is considered to be one of Africa's flourishing countries and it can export such products as tea and coffee and some other agricultural goods.

At the same time, the presence of such neighbors as Sudan, Tanzania, and Kenya has increased that country's strategic sensitivities and has given it a special position. Although this strategic position has brought about numerous problems for Uganda at various points in time, it has also given that country's officials valuable opportunities for solving regional conflicts. In reality, Ugandan officials are well placed for playing an effective role in reducing the tensions in southern Sudan by implementing certain realistic policies and, by keeping closed the supply routes to the rebels of southern Sudan, for defeating the new colonialist plots; just as, even now, they have taken on a positive role — by accepting to undertake mediation efforts — in bringing closer together the positions of the Sudanese Government and rebels.

In the same way, Ugandan officials can, by adopting an active role, contribute to reducing the difficulties and hardships of their other neighbor, Rwanda; just as that country's [Uganda's] officials have left behind a positive record by playing this role in international circles and organizations — especially in the Organization of African Unity; a record that has paved the way for cooperation between Uganda and other countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, laying the groundwork for the expansion of ties between the two countries in the framework of south-south cooperation.

'First' South African Envoy Arrives, Views Ties

LD0708092795 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 7, IRNA — South Africa is willing to expand ties with Iran, says the first South African ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Musa Moolla.

Moolla, in an interview with the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES after arriving in Tehran Saturday [5 August] night, underlined the tremendous potentials that await Irano-South African cooperation.

Moolla who is going to begin his tour of duty here said, "it is to the best interest of the two countries to cooperate in all fields of human endeavor," adding that strengthenig of Tehran-Pretoria relations reap benefits for both sides.

Asked whether the U.S. displeasure on South Africa's acceptance of a contract to store Iranian crude in its depots has any influence on Irano-South African relations, he answered, "we believe that this should not really affect relations."

The ambassador underlined the importance his country attaches to Iran and expressed hope that relations would boost cooperation in all fields.

He said he saw no obstacle in the way of expanding relations and was optimistic both countries' relations would move towards the better.

The new South African ambassador is to submit a copy of his credentials to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Wednesday.

He revealed that Velayati is to travel to South Africa next week to hold talks with South African officials.

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Tehran-Pretoria relations were suspended in 1979 in protest to South Africa's policy of apartheid.

Rafsanjani Meets New Envoy

LD0908113195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Musa Moolla, first South African ambassador to Tehran since the victory of the Iranian Islamic revolution, was received today by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to whom he presented his credentials. In the course of this meeting the South African ambassador, expressing pleasure at the reopening of his country's embassy in Tehran, said: Iran's severance of relations with the racist regime of South Africa played a significant role in the victory of our people. We shall never forget the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for our struggle.

At this meeting, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In the wake of the South African people's victory against racism and with the realization of independence in that country, it is time for Iran and South Africa to take important practical steps toward the expansion of mutual ties.

The president stated that the Iranian experience of the post- Islamic revolution victory era would be useful for the South African people. He added: Some hegemonistic states might oppose the expansion of cooperation between our two countries, but the nonaligned and independent countries should expand cooperation in accordance with their own interests.

The South African ambassador, on behalf of President Nelson Mandela, invited our country's president to visit South Africa. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani accepted the invitation.

Velayati Said To Visit South Africa on Oil Deals

LD0708054695 Tehran IRNA in English 0440 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 7, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will visit three African countries in a week-long trip to begin on August 15, an informed source in the Foreign Ministry announced.

The source told the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES that Velayati will visit South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique.

In Pretoria, he will confer with Nelson Mandela, two of his deputies and some of the members of his cabinet, he said.

Political analysts attach great importance to Velayati's forthcoming visit to South Africa since it will prepare the ground for several oil contracts with that country, the paper quoted the source as saying.

Iran and South Africa have agreed to store 1.5 million of Iranian oil in South Africa to be re-exported to other parts of the world, the paper wrote. Presently South Africa purchases 3,000 barrels of Iranian oil daily, it added.

The United States have been pressuring South Africa to limit its relations with Iran, the daily said, adding, "Pretoria has announced that the United States cannot dictate its policies to that country."

Daily Hails New Era in Ties With South Africa

LD0608102995 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 6, IRNA — Iran cut off its ties with the apartheid regime in Pretoria after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, but with the dissipation of apartheid in that South Africa, the two countries found natural allies in each other, a morning daily wrote Sunday [6 August].

The English-language TEHRAN TIMES referred to arrival of the first South African ambassador to Iran in post-Islamic Revolution era on Saturday.

"Both Iran and South Africa are located on strategic spots on the map of the world," it said, adding that Iran overwatches the Strait of Hormuz while South Africa oversees the Cape of Good Hope.

Oil tankers leaving Persian Gulf ports pass the Cape of Good Hope before reaching their final destination in Europe, the editorial said.

"Therefore," it underlined, "the two countries can cooperate not only in commerce but also in security areas which are to the benefit of all regional countries in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean."

A good beginning is just in the offing: South Africa will store 15 million barrels of Iranian oil for re-export to other countries, the daily said, noting, "the two countries can embark on joint ventures in oil refinery, transportation and marketing."

Both Iran and South Africa are rich in minerals some of which are rarest in the world and this is another field for mutual cooperation.

"Ironically," it stressed, "both countries are on the U.S. hit list or watch list."

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The paper reiterated that because they do not give in to U.S. bullying, they have to face Washington's grudge one way or another.

Mandela has already passed his test in defying and foiling imperialists, and Iran is also a pioneer in anti-imperialist campaigns, it said, concluding, "cooperation between the two can strengthen the stance of the South vis-a-vis the North.

Ambassador Views Improved Cooperation With India

LD0908103795 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 9, IRNA — A senior Iranian diplomat depicted the next century as "the Asian century", a prospect which embodies cooperation among Asian countries.

In an interview with the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, Iran's Ambassador to India 'Ali Reza Sheykh 'Attar added that Iran and India are two major Asian countries, therefore, full bilateral cooperation is required to prepare them for the Asian era.

The technocrats of the two countries are depending on Western technology, but if they sincerely believe in their motto of 'independence' they should maintain their unity and trust in their own capabilities, commented Sheykh' Attar. He added that India did not have such a friendly and 'warm' ties with Iran before the victory of the Islamic revolution, since the two countries were grouped under two different East and West blocks. During the imposed war on Iran, the relations were partially expanded but for the main part were at a standstill. However, mutual political, economic and cultural ties substantially improved after the war, remarked the ambassador.

He stated that politically the two nations share the same ideals and their diplomats have regularly attended the various international Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and UN conferences. Referring to "very strong incentives for bilateral cooperation in the economic sector", the ambassador pointed that Iran is demanding India's technology, and there is a good market for energy in India, created by Indian new policy of privatization of its state-owned businesses and companies.

Sheykh 'Attar said another motive for further cooperation is lingual and religious commonalties and their ancient historical ties. 130 million Muslims live in India and Farsi [Persian] is being formally taught at more than 100 higher education centers throughout India.

The trade volume between the two states is estimated at dlrs. 600 million two thirds of which is in oil related areas, Sheykh 'Attar noted. He added that the economic ties will be boosted dramatically through the commissioning of several new projects, one of which involves the sale of Iranian natural gas to India. A contract is supposed to be signed between Ministry of Petroleum and an Irano-German consortium for preliminary survey and determining the route. The confirmation is expected to be announced within the next few months (before the end of 1995).

According to preliminary data, the route for the project is 2,000 km, half of which is located in the Iranian territory and the remaining goes through the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. This project is estimated at dlrs. 4.5 billion, which is aimed at providing the Western industrial coast of India with natural gas. The ambassador called the project unique in the world.

He remarked on the Irano-Indian 50-50 joint venture of establishing a chemical-fertilizer plant in Qeshm free trade zone. India will supply the project with required machinery and technology. It will also invest financial capital. Iran on the other hand, will provide the needed site, capital and natural gas.

Minister of Roads and Transport Akbar Torkan last year visited India. During his visit India was termed Iran's railway partner, meaning that Indian expriences in the rail-line industry will be utilized by Iran.

He [as received] said India from the very beginning refuted the U.S. economic embargo against Iran and even increased its volume of oil imports from the previous three million to four million tons, and even further increase is possible. The ambassador added that at present over 2,000 Iranian students are enrolled in Indian colleges and universities.

Velayati's Kazakhstan Visit 'Boost' for Ties

LD0808131095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, heading a high-ranking delegation arrived at the Kazakh capital Almaty, on Monday, 7th August. The visit took place at the official request of the Kazakh foreign minister. During his stay in Almaty, the Iranian foreign minister will meet and confer with Kazakh officials to discuss the follow up to Tehran-Almaty agreements.

Cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] and the Caspian Sea Coastal Organization, is among the major aims of the visit.

Political experts maintain that massive trade, production and investment potential in the Central Asian countries,

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herald a bright prospect of economic bloom. However, there seems to be hurdles dimming the trade and investment prospects in these countries. Despite the existing stumbling blocks, with the expansion in the ECO's activities, on the one hand, and the formation of the organization of the Caspian Sea countries, on the other, many obstacles have been cleared from the way, paving fertile ground for emerging solutions.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of its significant strategic, economic as well as geo-political role in the region, has, up to date, made extensive contributions in resolving some of the problems in the newly-independent states of Central Asia and Caucasia.

In terms of the economy, Iran's role in bridging the gaps between the countries and world markets, and in terms of politics, the Islamic Republic of Iran's role in establishing peace and security in the region, are not to be overlooked.

Political analysts believe that Tehran-Almaty ties are no exception to the rule and Kazakh officials have on various occasion voiced their interests in enjoying Iran's different facilities and aid in various spheres.

On the whole, the ever increasing Irano-Kazakh ties should be assessed in light of the two countries' role in the region. The Iranian foreign minister's visit to Kazakhstan and talks between his ranking political, economic and cultural delegation with the Kazakh official is another step which could give a speedy boost to the countries' cooperation in different fields.

Russian Ministers Hail Cooperation; Envoy Comments

LD0808204295 Tehran IRNA in English 1939 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Aug 8 (IRNA) — Russian ministers of agriculture and construction here Monday [7 August] underlined Moscow's cooperation with Tehran in the fields of agriculture and road construction.

Iran's ambassador here, Medhi Safari, in his meeting with Russian Construction Minister, Yefim Basin, touched on Iran's experiences in construction of townships and bridges and said Iran is ready to cooperate with Russia in various areas.

Regarding Iran's ability to produce high quality construction materials, Safari said Iranian construction companies are ready to undertake and fulfil construction projects in Russia.

The Iranian diplomat invited the Russian construction minister to visit Tehran and sign protocols on Tehran-Moscow cooperation, which was welcomed by the latter.

Basin, noting lack of cooperation between the two neighbouring countries in the construction field, underscored Tehran-Moscow cooperation in this regard.

Emphasizing the need for exchange of experiences between the two countries, he said Moscow is ready to cooperate with Iran for laying of rail tracks.

In another meeting later on Monday, Safari and Russian Agriculture Minister, Aleksandr Nazarchuk, explored Tehran-Moscow cooperation in the areas of agriculture and fisheries.

Safari referring to the good neighbourly ties between Iran and Russia called for further cooperation in this regard.

He invited Nazarchuk on behalf of his Iranian counterpart, 'Isa Kalantari, to visit Iran. The invitation was welcomed by Nazarchuk.

The Russian minister referred to similarity of problems faced by the two countries in the agricultural fields and said agricultural cooperation between Tehran and Moscow will help remove the problems to the benefit of the two sides.

'Half' of Revolutionary Guards Said Demobilized

MM0808152995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri: "3,000 Officers Pensioned Off and Half of Revolutionary Guards Demobilized Under Plan Approved by Khamene'i"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Iranian authorities have decided to demobilize half of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and to turn the other half into regular forces belonging to the Army. The decision falls in the framework of a plan approved by 'Ali Khamene'i, supreme guide of the republic. The plan is aimed at curbing the Guards' role and ending the confusion and chaos resulting from the failure to restrict this role. And 3,000 officers and noncommissioned officers from the Iranian Armed Forces have been pensioned off.

The plan was revealed yesterday. It is aimed at making very big changes in the Iranian Armed Forces. Under this new plan nearly 50 percent of the Revolutionary Guards will be demobilized. More than 3,000 officers and noncommissioned officers will be pensioned off and hundreds of other military personnel moved to various positions in the Armed Forces.

The plan, which is approved by Khamene'i, is aimed at ending the state of confusion and chaos resulting from

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the failure to restrict the Guards' role or to precisely specify its duties. [passage omitted]

Constitution Said To Allow Political Activities

LD0808215095 Tehran IRNA in English 2046 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 8 (IRNA) — Political parties, associations and groups are free to conduct political activities on condition that they honour the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Movahedi Saveji a member of the Special Commission Monitoring Political Parties said here on Tuesday [8 August].

He said Article 10 of the Law on Political Parties, stipulated free activities of political parties regardless of whether or not they have the license.

Asked about the reason for the absence of strong political parties in Iran, he said that is not because of legal limitations but it's a matter of acceptability among the people and the extent of popular confidence on the parties.

Mohammad 'Ali Shamabadi another member of the commission said that already 33 licences have been issued for political parties, 10 licences for trade unions and political associations, 81 for industrial, scientific and research bodies, and 24 for religious minorities.

He rejected the report that the Association of Rohaniyat-e Mobarez (Combatant Clergy) and the dissolved Islamic Republic Party had applied for licences and said the commission had not received any application from the two groups.

Asadollah Badamchian, another member of the commission said the application of the Liberation Movement of Iran (LMI) has been rejected after due study, even though the LMI is active despite the legal ban.

Badamchian who is the representative of the judiciary at the special commission said the LMI had lodged a complaint with the court of justice against the ban, but, the complaint was rejected in view of the record of the group.

There is no limitation for political parties in Iran, he said, adding: "We welcome activities of political parties although their activity or inactivity lie with the experience of the people in the past and the record of the parties themselves."

Badamchian said the law on political parties was approved in 1360 (1981) and has been effective since its approval. The Majlis and the government can make amendments to the law if deemed necessary, he added. However, he said, the Islamic Republic and the law do not stop any group's political activities in compliance with the constitution.

Asked why the Islamic Associations of Students are not active at the Open University, he said there are no legal curbs on issuing licences to them, and their inactivity at the Open University is a matter concerning the university authorities.

Movahedi Saveji who is the representative of the legislative body at the Special Commission for Monitoring Political Parties said parties that honour the Constitution of the Islamic Republic will be granted licences if they apply even though they oppose the government.

Asked by a foreign reporter about the difference between the parties who acquire licences or not, he said the two are the same and they can have political activities in compliance with the legal code.

He said even parties such as the Liberation Movement of Iran whose licence has been withdrawn or other parties not having licences can run for parliamentary and presidential elections, if the eligibility of their candidates was approved.

'Daily' Views Democratic Duties, Rights of Society

LD0908105095 Tehran IRNA in English 0610 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 9, IRNA — An English-language daily in its Wednesday [9 August] editorial touched on the necessity of bilateral duties and rights of government and people as a manifestation of democracy.

TEHRAN TIMES referred to President Rafsanjani's remarks on Monday who emphasized that "it is the right of the people to be informed of the performance of the government servants" and wrote that a representative government in a democracy is naturally accountable to citizens, otherwise the confidence of people in government would be shattered.

The daily added "citizens, for their part, should keep in mind that rights and duties always go hand in hand. Only a law-abiding citizen can claim his or her rights."

TEHRAN TIMES also pointed out that in certain cases, "some citizens are neither aware of their duties, nor cognizant of their rights. This situation leads to chaos and disorder."

The paper termed enlightening people on their rights and duties as a responsibility of the government.

Pointing to "the important role of the press" in this regard, the daily said that it is the right and duty of

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the press to watch government's performance and make sure that it is frank with people.

The paper also called as a duty of the press to highlight the achievements of the government.

Daily Addresses Central Provice's Industrial Issues

95LA0315A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Central Province, with an area of 29,400 square km, occupies one-eighth of the total area of the country. This province is located in central Iran and neighbors with the provinces of Tehran, Esfahan, Zanjan, and Hamadan.

Based on the latest ratification of the Ministry of Interior, 8 provincial cities, 15 towns, 15 districts, 60 rural centers, 1,394 inhabited villages, and 46 uninhabited villages [as published] comprise the national divisions of the province.

Among the cities of this region, Arak, with about 48 percent of the population, and Saveh, with about 18 percent of the population, are considered the largest cities in the province. Moreover, large industries affiliated with the government in Arak and consumer industries that are mostly affiliated with the private sector in the city of Saveh have placed these two cities in a unique situation.

According to the results of the 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] census, from a population of 1,182,611 in this province, 591,177 people, equivalent to 49.9 percent, reside in urban and 591,434 people, equivalent to 50.1 percent, reside in rural areas. Considering the migration of villagers in recent years, this ratio has changed in favor of urban dwelling. In 1370, the literacy rate was 75 percent, and the employment rate among the population 10 years of age and above was 37 percent.

The age structure of the population of the province indicates that 42.78 percent of the total population is between zero and 14 years old, and 27.36 percent are in the 15-29 age group. This issue, that is, the youth of a major portion of the population of the province, requires planning toward the various needs of this strata, including educational, cultural, and other needs and special investments in this area.

Educational and Cultural Resources

The operations of the centers offering educational services, including centers affiliated with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Centers in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] to 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], indicate that 323,385 students in the various elementary, middle school, and high school levels have acquired the necessary training assisted by 11,315 faculty members. In the same year, about 22,000 students studied in four government higher education centers, four centers affiliated with Payam-e Nur University, and five centers affiliated with the Open Islamic University in various cities of Central Province.

In the areas of cultural resources and the passing of leisure hours, 21 libraries, 3 film centers and theaters, 6 cinemas, 34 athletic centers, a ski area, and a museum exist in the province.

Production of the Province

In the area of agriculture, the major farming products of the province are comprised of wheat, barley, legumes, fodder, sugar beats, and oil seeds, among which wheat is the largest volume of production. Central province has 1.82 percent of the area, 2 percent of the water resources, 1.4 percent of the soil resources, and 4.7 percent of the land under cultivation; 46.3 percent of its land is irrigated and 53.7 percent of the cultivated land consists of dry farming.

The production of major agricultural products of the province in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] to 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], based on the statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture, includes wheat, 463,000 tons; sunflower seeds, 1,286 tons; sugar beets, 68,000 tons; and various kinds of beans, 30,000 tons. Of the total land under cultivation for agricultural products in the province, 90.7 percent was cultivated with these major agricultural products.

The permanent agricultural products produced in the province are estimated at about 70,000 tons. Among the agricultural products produced in the province that are exported outside the province, cantaloupes and pomegranates from Saveh, flowers from Mahallat, and legumes from Khomeyn play a significant role.

In the area of raising livestock and poultry, Central Province has been able to export, in addition to providing milk, meat, and eggs needed by the province.

In addition, 38,000 tons of red meat, 25,000 tons of white meat, and 19,000 tons of eggs are among the products of the province in 1372, among which 19,000 tons of red meat, 7,800 tons of white meat, and 11,500 tons of eggs have been exported to neighboring provinces as surplus production beyond the needs of the province.

Industry

In 1371, a total of 1,990 licensed industrial units with 42,971 employees produced 1,845 billion rials [R] worth of goods in the province. The metal production and

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basic chemical industries, with about 65 percent of the value of products, play a distinguished role among other industrial groups.

In terms of value, foodstuff, non-metal minerals, textiles, and cellulose industries are on the next levels of production in that order. The industries in the province are gradually changing their focus from metal industries in the present conditions toward other areas, including chemical, non-metal, and textile industries.

In 1371, in the large industrial workshops of the province, 6.7 percent of the national production and 7.8 percent of the gross domestic production in the industries sector, 15 percent of the investment value in the entire country, and 7.8 of the added value has been created. This indicates the important role of the industry of the province in the country.

Proposals for Important and Major Industrial Projects

1. Choose industrial projects on the basis of market studies to avoid wasting scarce resources.

2. Observe the priority of investment and intermediary goods vis-a-vis the production of consumer goods and completion of regional and national industrial production chain links.
3. Properly distribute industry while maintaining environmental relations throughout the province.
4. Increase design and engineering production.
5. Use advanced technology in renovating the existing industries and creating new units, especially in basic metal production and machinery and technical equipment industries, to produce new industrial products, improve the quality of products, raise technical and economic use, and increase the export capability of the country.
6. Avoid creating large water-consuming and polluting industries, and create industrial waste water processing plants to return the water to the process of production.

Communication and Energy

The length of the roads on the province that facilitate inter-provincial and extra-provincial traffic is about 1,532 km of main and secondary roads. Of the 4,600 km network of rural roads, 2,600 km have underlying foundations, and only 400 km are paved.

The length of the railroads in the province is 293 km. On the whole, the length of secondary and primary roads of the province is 2 percent of the main roads of the country. The heavy volume of trade between the south and west of the country renders the main roads of the province inadequate, and every year a major share of provincial funds is spent on maintaining the main roads that play a national role. The condition of the rural roads is such that because 70 percent of them are mountainous and covered with snow, they require special attention by the officials.

The total sale of electricity in the province in 1372 was 2,874,074 kwh, a major part of which—that is, 70 percent—was for industrial use.

With the expansion of the communications network in the urban and rural areas of Central Province, by the end of 1372 the coefficient of the expansion of telephone service increased to 7.15 (per 100 people). This index for the urban population of the province is 9.58.

Also, the resources related to the Voice and Vision in the province include a 100-kw radio transmitter which covers all the areas of the province. Central Province lacks a local television network, and 75 percent of its people are covered by the national television network.

The services carried out in the area of rural development indicate that last year, 777 villages (82 percent) out of the total number of villages with populations above 20 families in the province have safe drinking water, and 758 villages (80 percent) out of the total number of villages with populations of 20 families or more have safe baths. In the area of benefiting from electricity, it is interesting that of the total villages with a population of 20 families or more, only 71 villages lack electricity; the rest have electricity.

Existing Problems and Suggestions

The main shortages that have resulted in problems are lack of or insufficient amounts of certain infrastructures.

One of these infrastructures involves the narrowness of the main and central roads and the low quality of their asphalt, especially the main roads of Arak-Salafchegan and Arak-Sarband, which seriously need a freeway. If attention is not paid to improving the Saveh-Salafchegan, Arak-Khomeyn, and Khomeyn-Mahallat main roads, a great national wealth will go untapped.

This problem, along with the high volume of traffic on these roads, has caused an increase in accidents in addition to slow traffic. In the infrastructure sector, especially regarding the network of rural roads in the province, considering the figures presented, special attention by the officials is needed.

Another problem that is seen in the cities, especially in the provincial capital, is lack of suitability between the old composition of the city and the increasing needs resulting from the development of industries and services.

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This problem is evident in the inefficiency of the transportation system due to the narrowness and insufficiency of the access roads to the center of the city resulting in heavy traffic jams and in the shortage of facilities throughout the city, such as parks and recreational, athletic, and cultural centers. There is a need for rapid implementation of regional developmental projects.

Another problem that threatens the province today is pollution resulting from the location of industries. This problem has become critical, especially in Arak, due to the pollution from the aluminum production factory. Based on reports by the Environmental Office of the province, the air pollution in Arak is 99 percent due to industries, and the severity of this pollution is such that the existing carbon monoxide in the air of this city has been estimated to be three times that of Tehran.

The heavy volume of investments in building the Ghadir Dam, with 290 million cubic meters of reservoir, and the 15 Khordad Dam, with 200 million cubic meters of reservoir, requires that in order to prevent the dam reservoirs being filled by sediments, essential decisions must be made and steps must be taken regarding the aquifer management of these dams.

The use of the Ghadir Dam of Saveh, which in terms of climate and marketing is considered one of the most appropriate agricultural centers, requires that attention be paid to the problem of the use of about 23,000 hectares of land irrigated by the dam and about 18,000 hectares of lower lands that have potential for use. Also, because of the problems of irrigation and the drainage network, the best use of water and land is not made on this plain, and it is necessary that solutions be found to the problems of the irrigation and drainage network and better distribution of water and use of the water and soil resources.

Pakistan

Bhutto Addresses Military, Foreign Affairs Issues

BK0708113695 Karchi DEFENCE JOURNAL in English Jun-Jul 95 pp 15-19

[Response to "questionnaire" by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto submitted "through" Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani by Editor in Chief A.R. Siddiqi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]**Q. No. 1 Madam Prime Minister! How do you find the evolving state of civil-military relationship under your democratic government? In what way is it different from that under your first term as Prime Minister (1988-1990)?**

Answer My answer in one word is "positive". Two aspects merit attention. One, the objective environment obtaining in 1988 was fundamentally different. We had just emerged from a virtual political hypoxia of 11 long years wherein the military dictatorship had spared no effort to ensure our political strangulation. The PPP [Pakistan People's Party] had been made the villain of the piece. Political survival remained the scarlet thread of our struggle in that era of oppression. Consequently, there were bound to be misgivings on both sides. Two, the watershed really came during 1991-93 when as a responsible Opposition we responded constructively to the initiatives that were taken to resolve the impasse, even at some political price to our struggle. Our positive role served as a foundation to build a relationship of confidence.

Q. No. 2 Most observers would still tend to consider the military establishment as a major obstacle to the evolution of democratic order. Would you agree with the observation?

Answer Indeed not. The military leadership today is far better informed. The are acutely conscious of their institutional responsibility in the evolution of democratic order. The military leadership's scrupulous commitment to find a constitutional and democratic dispensation to the political logjam in 1993, temptations and suggestions to take over notwithstanding, augurs well for the country.

Q. No. 3 I am irresistibly reminded of a cartoon published in a foreign journal sometime in the 1970s showing a heavily armed officer in a glass case with the instruction BREAK GLASS IN CASE OF DEMOCRACY printed below. Would you like to comment?

Answer I think we have come a long way on. There has been a qualitative transformation since the 1970s. There is much greater awareness and sharper sensitivity to political emancipation and fundamental rights universally. The evolution of democratic ethos among our people is unmistakable. We are living in an era of democracy.

Q. No. 4 On the surface it appears that there has been a basic reordering of civil-military relations in Pakistan as well as in several other Third World countries. Do you think it is a temporary phenomenon or a lasting process leading to a consolidation of democratic order?

Answer You have answered the question yourself. The reordering that you allude to is rooted in the democratic genius of our people. Our armed forces have the same moorings and share the same aspirations too. Bonapartism and military adventurism are a thing of the past. But all democracies in the world have witnessed such aberrations in their history. Even the Mother of Democracy had her Cromwell. We have no reason to

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despair on our long march to democracy. I have no doubt in my mind that the country's return to democracy is there to stay.

Q. No. 5 Do you think that the changed conduct of the military establishment and their reluctance to intervene in civil affairs has been more because of such external pressures as military aid cut-off etc. or internal compulsions?

Answer I have already answered this question. The causative factors that you have juxtaposed are transient in nature. Their influence does not endure. The underlying rationale can be traced in a clearer perception of objective realities, both by the military and the politician, and hence this re-ordering of relationship.

Q. No. 6 How would you look at the military establishment being made to identify itself with the government of the day on the basis of its party affiliations? One of your ministers in a recent statement described your government as a PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front]-Army coalition. Would you subscribe to the description?

Answer The Minister concerned has already clarified his position. I understand that you coined this term 'PDF-Army coalition' in your commentary on the minister's statement (THE NATION May 4). You have again used it in your question. No, I do not share the cynicism that you seem to convey. But I do subscribe to the intimate consultations that I frequently have with "the President and the Army Chief on mattres of national interest, particularly on foreign affairs issues, security and defence", as you quote the Minister to have said. Now there is nothing unprecedented or unconstitutional about it. Consultations among various institutions and organs of the state including the armed forces are an essential process of policy formulation. It is not sharing of power, but sharing of responsibility and developing consensus on security issues. My government has pursued a policy of consensus on all issues of national importance. I have even invited the Opposition a number times to join us in policy formulation on our core national interests. There is already a broad consensus on Kashmir, nuclear non-proliferation, missile threat, narcotics and other sensitive issues.

Q. No. 7 There are two ways of exercising control over the military establishment, one is objective and the other is subjective control. Objective control is achieved by maximising the professional character of the army while subjective control is achieved by maximising its political identification with the ruling political party. Which one you would prefer?

Answer I would like to state it unequivocally that our party and government like the armed forces to remain apolitical and non-partisan. The constitution lays down clear demarcation and provides for adequate institutional control. It has been our conscious effort to promote professionalism and enhance operational readiness of our armed forces. Defence Committee of the Cabinet and other related forums have been activated and meet more regularly than they did even under the military rule. Notwithstanding resource constraints, we have not let our defence suffer. We have developed diverse sources of supply to offset the effect of Pressler Amendment. There is a greater stress, and allocation of funds, on indigenisation of equipment. It is my conviction that professionally competent and strong armed forces are a guarantee for our national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Q. No. 8 Do you see any contradiction between the military's support of the government of the day and its acceptance of the opposition as the nations most loyal opposition rather than as an unpatriotic hostile force?

Answer This question has been debated sufficiently in the national media. You seem to be viewing the military as a kind of supra-constitutional force, sitting back and busy approving or disapproving elements of national body-politic. This is a flawed vision wrought with conceptual pitfall. Ours is a democratic system based on time honoured principles of governance and interaction. Each constituent element has its own definite place and role, be it the opposition, armed forces or any other institution or organ of the state. Therefore, for all of us working for the state, it is not a matter of preferences, but a matter of principled conduct. The government of today can be the opposition of tomorrow and vice versa. We have never dubbed the opposition as unpatriotic. On the contrary, we have repeatedly invited the opposition to join us in resolving by consensus all national issues.

Q. No. 9 While the old pattern of civil-military relationship is no longer viable no new one has emerged. Would you like to spell out the new emerging order as you see it?

Answer One would first need to know what is your perception of the past pattern of civil-military relations? It should also be quite educative to obtain an outline of the so-called 'new order' as visualized by you. In our government, functional parameters of political leadership and the military along with those of other organs of the state are laid down clearly under the provisions of the constitution. Like I said earlier, there are no ultra- constitutional rules of business.

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Q. No. 10 Do you see any conflict between civilian supremacy and the military's autonomy of command?

Answer Please refer to the answer I have just given. However, I must re-emphasize that both these aspects fall under the ambit of our considered policy, therefore there is no functional friction. As you must be aware, the entire structure of military culture is firmly placed in its commitment and readiness to defend the integrity and ideology of the country. Over a period of time, helped by institutional continuity, it has developed its responses towards core issues of national security which assist the government in policy formulation. The military's internal autonomy of command issues form its ethos of ensuring maximum operational efficiency, acting within the laid down parameters. It is time to bury the conflict theme once for all.

Q. No. 11 Would you like to sum up the prevailing geo-political situation threats and challenges in the subcontinent and their final solution?

Answer The end of the cold war and demise of non-alignment has induced profound changes in the international environment. The new world order entails, inter alia regression by the US from a direct role in world affairs and, instead, preference for exercising leverage through UN or allies. Russia is striving to re-assert itself in the context of Eastern Europe and Central Asia and gradually beginning to claim equal status in world affairs. The European Union is working for expansion of its influence. Germany and Japan are striving for major power status and seeking a larger role in regional security.

Extension in time through capture of economic markets rather than extension in space has become the sine qua non of global and regional strategy. Competition for big emerging markets (BEMs) has opened the Third World not only to opportunities for economic development but would also expose them to the tensions and manipulations endemic to competition. We have to keep the emerging realities in sharp focus to make rational policy adjustments.

Pakistan's geo-strategic location in South Asia on one end and our traditional, historical and spiritual links with West Asia on the other place us in a position of enormous responsibility. We seek stability in the region and are willing to play our role to promote regional peace. There is now greater recognition by the US of Pakistan's stabilising influence in the region, its growing strategic importance, our economic potential and role in promoting peace and democracy.

We welcome the Middle East peace process and would like to see it reach its logical culmination in Israeli withdrawal from captured Arab territories. We regret the US trade sanctions against Iran and do not support any attempts aimed at her isolation. It is our considered view that such measures become counterproductive in essence. As you know even the American public opinion is divided on this issue. Pakistan is keeping a close watch on developments and is willing to serve as a bridge for its friends. We have a traditional and fraternal interest in Iran's security.

As I said some time earlier, Pakistan served as a bridge between China and the US at a time when they were not even on talking terms. With China, we enjoy very close relations and would like to build them even stronger. We maintain regular contact with China at various tiers and the bilateral cooperation is expanding in various fields.

The unending instability and turmoil in Afghanistan is a matter of serious concern for Pakistan. We have paid in blood to help Afghanistan regain its freedom. We are willing to extend all help for a peaceful evolution of a settlement. We do not wish to take sides but would honestly support establishment of government there through a broad based national consensus in accordance with the wished and aspirations of the Afghan people.

With SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries we have very cordial relations except India. India is one country in South Asia which has problems with each of its neighbours. Pakistan faces a security threat from India which has conventional forces several times larger than ours. She has an active nuclear weapons programme and an aggressive missile development programme, of which a regiment of Prithvi missiles has already been deployed against or borders.

The people of Jammu & Kashmir have given their verdict against India by rejecting her charade of elections and forcing India to amend her constitution and extend the President's rule. Pakistan cannot and will not abandon the just cause of the people of Kashmir. We are not averse to meaningful negotiations. But we can no longer engage in a protracted farce on nonproductive talks. We are convinced that the resolution of the core dispute of Kashmir would create the necessary climate for eventual reduction of tensions and promotion of peace, stability and security in our region.

Thank you very much Madam Prime Minister

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Government Wants Hostages Released 'Immediately'

BK0908110995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Pakistan Government has once again appealed to the kidnappers of foreign nationals being held hostage in occupied Kashmir to immediately release the hostages on humanitarian considerations. An official statement in Islamabad said today that the act of kidnapping is condoned neither by the tenets of religion, nor custom nor tradition. It neither advances nor serves the cause of self-determination or serves people of Kashmir.

U.S. Said To Accept Need for Nuclear Solution

BK0808045395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said that the United States has accepted the premise that the nuclear non-proliferation issue will have to be resolved on a regional basis. In a statement in Islamabad, the spokesman said Pakistan and the United States have reached an understanding that the objective can be achieved either through steps at the regional level or through a nondiscriminatory global agreement. He said the United States understands that Pakistan will not take any step unilaterally. The spokesman was commenting on reports published in a section of the press which quoted inaccurate remarks about the U.S.-Pakistan exchanges on the nuclear issue.

Editorial Views Possible U.S. Karachi Mediation

BK0908095295 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 9 Aug 95 p 10

[Editorial: "United States Will Settle Government-MQM Dispute"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our staff reporter has quoted Afaq Ahmed, chairman of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Haqiqi Group, as saying that Robin Raphel, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, is coming to Pakistan on 13 August to mediate in the settlement of issues between the government and the MQM. After meeting representatives of the MQM (Altaf Group), she will hold talks with members of the government. It is hoped that the problem will be solved in this manner. There is a possibility that the settlement will be made with a third group. According to Afaq Ahmed, Imran Farooq has been arrested. . . few months ago he met Robin Raphel, so this time she will settle the issue through him. If the government and MQM had continued their negotiations, there would be no need to seek foreign interference. These are the internal problems of the country and should be solved internally. Whatever the MQM's aims and objectives, it is recognized as an indigenous organization. By starting negotiations with it, the government gave the impression that it refuses any foreign assistance for this purpose. God knows what transformation took place that made Altaf Hussain advise Muhajirs living in the United States and Canada to write letters to President Clinton, Amnesty International, and other organizations. It is not unlikely that he asked for help from the U.S. Administration himself. It could lead to many complications if the United States starts interfering in other countries to redress individual grievances. As far as the government is concerned, it has repeatedly said that the MQM team should come up with the required clarifications and resume talks. All issues can be discussed during the negotiations. As for the issue of the division of the MQM into two factions, this does not seem likely at present. As Professor N.D. Khan has said, the government has no concern whether a party is formed or dissolved. One thing should be kept in mind, however: A reaction to extremism is inevitable. Moderate elements are forced to separate from their extremist partners because this is the only way out for them. We already have so many political parties in the country, what difference does it make if one more is added?

President Urges India Against 'Aggressive Posture'

BK0808112495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has urged India to abandon its aggressive posture against Pakistan and give due rights to the Kahsmiri people for promoting peace and progress in South Asia. He was addressing a troops darbar [assembly] to bid farewell to a battalion of the Punjab Regiment which was performing guard duties of the president.

The president said that the Indian war phobia and its illegal subjugation of the Kashmiri people were the main stumbling block in the ways of socioeconomic progress of the people of the region. The president pointed out that the Kashmir issue was the sole irritant in normalizing Pakistan-India relations. He said India was spending huge amounts to procure arms and ammunition to maintain its hegemonistic posture in the region, ignoring all UN resolutions about Kashmir.

Further on President's Remarks

BK0808133695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said permanent peace in South Asia is

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our cherished goal, on which hinges the progress and well-being of the people living in the region. The president was addressing a troops darbar [assembly] to bid farewell to a battalion of the Punjab Regiment which was performing the duties of the guard battalion of the president.

The president said the Indian belligerence and its illegal subjugation of the Kashmiri people were the main stumbling block in the way of socioeconomic progress of the people of the region. He added that Kashmir issue was the sole irritant in normalizing India-Pakistan relations. The president said that if this irritant is removed through a peaceful resolution, peace can be restored in the region. President Leghari said India is spending millions of rupees to procure arms and ammunition in keeping with its hegemonitsic designs in the region, ignoring all UN resolutions and in turn Pakistan was also forced to beef up its defenses. He said such a confrontation can only be avoided if India agrees to resolve the Kahsmir issue peacefully and according to UN resolutions.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, nevertheless, cautioned that India due to unparalleled successes achieved by the Kashmiri freedom fighters could embark on some misadventure against Pakistan and we must be prepared to face such an eventuality. The president assured the nation and the armed forces that Pakistan was not oblivious to of the hegemonistic designs of India. Although we are keen to spend our maximum resources on the welfare of our people, national defense cannot be ignored.

The president eulogized the services rendered by the armed forces at the national and international level and said the performance of our troops deployed in different parts of the world under UN aegis has been acclaimed by foes and friends alike. President Leghari also spoke highly of the zeal and devotion demonstrated by troops in helping the marooned brethren stranded in flood affected areas. He said their commitment to flood relief activities has further enhanced their respect and prestige in the eyes of the people.

Five Accused of 'Terrorism' Extradited to Egypt

BK0908092395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 9 Aug 95 p 12

[JANG NEWS SERVICE item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Government of Pakistan sent to Egypt, five accused involved in terrorism and sabotage in Egypt by a special flight, it is reliably learnt. They are also being accompanied by some FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] officials.

A special PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] flight carrying the accused left for Cairo at 8:00 pm Tuesday [8 August].

Commander of Fundamentalist Military Group of Egypt Abu Yahya is among those extradited. He had been living in Bajore under the pseudonym of Noor Ullah Noorastani.

According to FIA sources a raid was conducted at Hotel Paradise in Sector G/1, Islamabad, a few days back and an Egyptian youngster apprehended. He identified himself as Noor Ullah Noorastani and told that he was an Afghan. On confirmation from the embassy he turned out to be Abu Yahya. He was then sent to jail.

WTO Said Approached About Japan's Antidumping Duty

BK0708144595 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal minister for commerce, Mr. Ahmad Mukhtar, has said the government is approaching the Geneva- based World Trade Organization [WTO] against antidumping duty by Japan against some textile mills of Pakistan. He was addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon. He said Japan has taken this decision in a hurry. He said we have a very strong case and we will be able to get the decision reversed. He said a number of countries have withdrawn dumping charges against Pakistan. He said Taiwan has not imposed antidumping duty on Pakistan. The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association — APTMA — is fighting its case in Taiwan as Pakistan had no diplomatic ties with Taipei. The minister said the government is providing all necessary legal support to APTMA for this purpose.

MQM Head Said Held by Authorities Since Jul 19

BK0808115395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 8 Aug 95 pp 1, 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — MQM-A [Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf] secretary general, Dr Imran Farooq, the most feared proclaimed offender with a head money reward of Rs 2.5 million and wanted in 63 cases of bohemian murders, terrorism and coercion, is believed to have been nabbed from his Karachi hideout on July 19 along with three others.

Dr Imran Farooq's father, who fled to Quetta last month, confirmed to the NBI that the law enforcing agencies had picked him up from a house in Korangi. The MQM chief has claimed recently that Imran Farooq would never defect from the party. However, he confirmed that his Secretary General was not in touch with him for the last one and a half months.

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Interior Minister Maj Gen (retd) Naseer Ullah Babar has, however, denied having arrested him. Talking to NBI from State Guest House, Karachi, he said that there is a wide speculation in Karachi that Dr Imran Farooq would launch his own faction of the party on August 14 and said he doesn't know about him. He however furnished some hints and said the 'Pir' should be asked where his 'disciple' is.

Ajmal Dehlvi, who spearheaded MQM talks with government, told NBI that according to his information, Dr Imran Farooq is already in the government custody along with a group of other MQM activists. "They are believed to have been flown to Islamabad by a special plane and are being persuaded to launch a new MQM faction". Dehlvi said that MQM's No. 2 man has not been in touch with the party hierarchy for the last twos months. "The only contact with him was through a mobile telephone and after the suspension of the mobile network in Karachi, his whereabouts are not known.".

"With threats to be killed in encounters, the detained MQM activists are being pressured to defect from the Altaf-led MQM", he said and added "similar efforts were made in the past but faded to damage Altaf Hussain's votebank. "Late Azeem Ahmad Tariq also attempted to launch his own MQM faction but lost Muhajir community's support and was subsequently assassinated".

A central leader of MQM-H[Haqiqi], while requesting anonymity, confirmed that Imran Farooq is under interrogation by a joint investigation team of the Sindh police and FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] in Islamabad.

According to MQM-A sources, the interior minister is not making public the arrest of Imran and his accomplices in one go since he wanted to gain time to persuade them for a defection. The recent statements made by Naseer Ullah Babar that Imran's arrest is on the cards is being viewed to be on the basis of his prior arrest. When the army operation was launched in 1992, the Sindh government had announced a head money of Rs. 700,000 for Dr. Imran. The reward to catch him dead or alive was recently increased to Rs. 2.5 million.

Agencies conducting Karachi operation had declared Imran as the main string-puller of the Altaf Group's death squad — Black Tigers Group. Having been declared a proclaimed offender by a Special Court for Suppression of Terrorist Activities in 1992, investigators said, Imran had been operating the deadly tigers through mobile phone from unknown places within Karachi.

They also said that before the suspension of the mobile service, Altaf used to convey his orders to Imran through his London-based secretary, Nadeem Nusrat. Imran had, according to government agencies, been passing on these orders to Farooq Dada who was alleged to have been entrusted with the task of implementing the orders of the Quaid-e-Tehrik.

The code names of Muhammad Hussain, Chota Bhai and Dada Jaan were used for Altaf Hussain Imran Farooq and Farooq Dada respectively during the mobile conversations, the investigations revealed. But the government decision to cut off the vital communication links- mobile phone and the pager service in Karachi paid dividends to the government. Going off the hook, the hard core nest of alleged terrorists went helter skelter, giving the government its first success which seemed to be an impossibility till recently.

Islamabad sources say that the federal government has set up a camp office of the Field Investigation Team (FIT) at Islamabad where Imran Farooq is being interrogated. The FIT was constituted in 1992 when the army launched operation-cleanup in Sindh and its head office was established in Karachi. Nearly 30 MQM-A militants, arrested during the recent Karachi operation, are also being interrogated at the FIT offices. The widow of Farooq Dada and two MQM-A MPAs [Members of Provincial Assembly], Qamar Mansoor and Safdar Ali Khan, advocate, have also been taken to Islamabad for interrogations.

The recent volleys of successful operations in Karachi are also attributed to the disclosures made by Dr Imran Farooq during the interrogations. Soon after the doctor's arrest on July 19, the paraforces conducted a massive operation in Gulbahar Colony on July 21, took control of the infamous Khajji ground and arrested 37 activists of the Altaf led MQM. Another similar operation was conducted on July 23 in Orangi Town and 42 MQM militants were nabbed.

Then a siege and search operation was conducted in Liaqatabad on July 26 in which 90 accused were arrested. The widely acclaimed, Farooq Dada was killed in a police encounter near Jinnah Terminal on August 2.

The arrest of the most wanted criminal, Faheem Commando, was the last but not least episode in the recent chain of events, followed by Imran Farooq's clandestine arrest.

However, MQM-A supremo Altaf Hussain has time and again publicly refuted terrorism charges against his party, saying the government has let lose a reign of terror on innocent Muhajirs in Karachi.

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One Policeman Among 5 Killed in Karachi Violence

BK0908025395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an official press note issued in Karachi last night, five people, including a police constable, were killed and two others injured in various incidents in the city yesterday. Troublemakers set one vehicle on fire. The Karachi police arrested 76 persons from different parts of the city and recovered illegal arms, stolen goods, and narcotics from them.

Sri Lanka

Council To Administer Areas Captured From LTTE

BK0708120395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga has moved in to implement an interim plan in the areas of the northeast which have been cleared of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists. The president told Tamil parliamentarians over the weekend that she will use her executive powers to establish a northeast advisory council to administer these areas until the set of proposals on devolution is approved. According to parliamentarian, Dharmalingam Siddharthan, the council will comprise 21 members that will advise the president on the running of the northeast. He said the president has said that she could create an interim council soon. Officials said that the president was keen to restore normal civilized life in large part of the embattled northeast from where the security forces recently drove out LTTE terrorists. President Kumaratunga has pledged to keep military pressure on the terrorists while measures are being taken to resolve the ethnic crisis politically. The president has made it clear that the battle can be won militarily, but unless they have a political solution they cannot win the war. She added that the government's aim through the political proposal was to satisfy the aspirations of the people.

Government Devolution Package Explained to Clergy

BK0808125095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Professor G.L. Peiris explained the government's presentation of set of proposals to devolve power while maintaining war in the north and east. Speaking at a discussion held at the (Paramadhamma Sahitya Privan) at Ratmalana yesterday for the mahasangha [Buddhist clergy] to express views on the proposals, the minister said that the government's stand was that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was engaged in a guerrilla war. If the people supported this, it would be difficult to contain it. Therefore, their support was necessary for victory. The minister pointed out that it was difficult to obtain this cooperation without forwarding a political solution. At the same time, we should not underestimate the military strength of the LTTE. The security forces require modern equipment to face this. The minister said that foreign countries are willing to provide this equipment even at a lesser price because of the government's honest attempt to find a political solution.

Replying to questions raised by the mahasangha, Professor Peiris said that although the government supported the decentralization of power, it did not accept the concept of a separate state. Government does not intend to devolve party units based on communities. It does not even intend to merge the north and the east. It has not even been proposed to set up a subzone within the Eastern Province. In the devolution proposals, power granted to the north and east will not exceed those given to Uva, Sabaragamuwa, Western, and other provinces.

Several Newspapers Welcome Devolution Proposals

BK0708023995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Many newspaper editorials today described the government's devolution proposals as a bold step toward settling the ethnic crisis. The SILUMINA editorial called upon all political parties to accept the fact (?that) ending the ethnic crisis and restoring peace is a crying need for the nation. Further, it points to the need for a political solution to settle the longstanding ethnic problem.

In its editorial, the (RAVEYA) newspaper states that the decentralization of power is essential not only to Jaffna but even to other areas like Hambantota. The government's devolution proposals could be subjected to a political debate and shortcomings could be eliminated through discussions. The (RAVEYA) noted that a division of the country would become unavoidable if there are empty protests against these proposals.

The (NEWSTIYA) editorial states that the responsibility of all powers representing the democracy is to prevent unnecessary protests against the devolution proposals. All peace loving people should contribute their share in pinpointing any shortcomings in these proposals through discussion.

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Sunday [6 August] newspapers also reiterated that the people should extend their support to implement the devolution proposals aimed to prevent the division of the country. In its editorial the SUNDAY LANKA DEEPA says that responsibility of the politician is to create an environment conducive for all communities to live in peace and harmony by eliminating the climate of terror which erupted due to negative action by certain radical elements. The LANKA DEEPA says that the national responsibility today is to analyze the present proposals to settle the crisis intelligently without resorting to protest campaign.

The women of Sri Lanka have voiced their support for the set of proposals unveiled by the government to find a political solution to the ethnic crisis. A coalition of 17 womens' organization under the name Mothers and Daughters of Lanka has issued a press release welcoming the proposals. The organization established in 1988 says that since inception they have consistently maintained that the ethnic conflict can be only resolved by peaceful means taking into consideration the genuine grievances of the Tamil people within the process of political negotiations. They appealed to all sections of the population to act with a sense of fairness and generosity and assist in taking this process forward. The Mothers and Daughters of Lanka organization notes that women have borne the brunt of senseless political violence, racism, and war. They are convinced that they must a begin a process of healing and reconciliation and eradicate from their collective physique the hatred, violence, and bitterness that have beset them. This brave initiative is the first step toward defeating intolerance and extremism and the beginning of a process that will help collective reconciliation and peace. The coalition of the 17 womens' organization has expressed the hope that the proposals will translate into a process of committed and sincere political effort that will bring lasting peace and ethnic harmony to this country.

Death Toll in 7 Aug Bomb Reportedly Reaches 24

BK0808121095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A powerful bomb blast ripped through the two-storied building housing the Western Provincial Council chief minister's office at around 1047 yesterday. Twenty-four people were killed and 52 injured in the bomb blast. Police believe that this bomb was taken into the building by an unknown person pushing a handcart and set off the blast at the entrance to the building. The police suspect the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is behind the attack. They have not ruled out the possibility of the work of an organized group.

DIG [deputy inspector general of police] of Colombo, M.M.R.B. Kotakadeniya, said that the photograph of the suicide bomber will be published in newspapers and shown on television to enable the people to identify the suspect. He said the remains of one person, around 25 years, showed evidence that he had been responsible for the bomb blast. The police also detected a part of a device used to detonate the bomb. The preliminary investigations are being conducted by the police and the Government Analysis Department. A senior official attached to the Government Analysis Department told our correspondent that a powerful explosive had been used for this bomb.

The officials of the chief minister's office and security officers were among those killed in the bomb blast. Thirty-nine injured persons are receiving treatment at the emergency ward of the General Hospital. Five persons who received critical injuries are taking treatment at the intensive care units. Several emergency operations were conducted to save lives of those who were critically injured in the blast. Nineteen bodies are now lying at the police morgue.

Senior SP [superintendent of police] and Director of the Criminal Investigation Bureau Lionel Gunatillake and senior officials are engaged in investigation activities under the supervision of DIG Kotakadeniya. Several dead persons have already been identified. The chief minister of the Western Province, Susil Prem Jayanth, said that the provincial council will take measure to provide relief to bomb victims.

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